

(AC) WILLIAM
HALL, ELIZABETH

James, William, Charles, John Joseph, and Johnson/Miller, Wright, Wilson,
DRAWER 1A CENTRAL KENTUCKY

71 2009.075.05849

Hanks Family

Children of
Joseph Hanks, Sr.

William

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

STATE OF ILLINOIS,

Sangamon County.

Sangamon

CIRCUIT COURT,

July

Term, 1845

John Hanky

Being duly sworn, says that he

attended as a Witness at the above Term

~~from~~ ^{two}

days, at the instance of the

People in the case of the People vs. Cynthia & Gal-

Subscribed and sworn to, before

Wm Webb & that he lives in Sta-
con County forty ~~five~~ miles from
Springfield.

me this 29th

day

of July

1845

Wm Webb dk

John Hanky

Photostat copy of original sent by Harry J. Pratt.

ROCKPORT DEMOCRAT.

THE PALLADIUM OF OUR LIBERTIES—THE UNION AND THE CONSTITUTION.

VOL. 6.

ROCKPORT, SPENCER COUNTY, INDIANA, AUG. 11, 1860.

NO. 20.

[From the Decatur (Ill.) Magnet.]

The Early Life of Abe Lincoln---What One of his Cousins has to say of Him---How Abe went Courting---Who Split the Rails, and all about it.

EDITOR OF THE MAGNET:—Dear Sir : In the last week's issue of the Chronicle I noticed a letter signed "John Hanks," which is so extraordinary in many of its features that I feel called upon to give it a brief notice.

John Hanks is my younger brother, and Abe Lincoln is my cousin. I have known both John and Abe from their earliest childhood. Since John has committed himself to the Decatur politician, who is using him as a tool to speculate in certain old rails (that I know cousin Abe never made,) I have great fears that brother John, like cousin Abe, has fallen into bad hands, and that a man by nature made for a good man, but who always needed protecting counselors, may be by his bad associations entirely ruined. I have known the entire history of both brother John and cousin Abe, and all that stuff in the letter published in the Chronicle is stuff, miserable stuff, and although poor brother John's name is signed to it, I know that he even yet does not know what is in it; much less did he ever write it. It is the work of men unscrupulous in the means that they may use, in gulling honest people.

In John's letter I find a long and pathetic allusion to cousin Abe's early and hard life. That may be poetical, but there is but little of it true. In Abe's young days he was simply a wild *harum scarum* boy, and jumping and wrestling were his only accomplishments. His laziness was the cause of many mortifications to me; for as I was an older boy than either Abe or John, I often had to do Abe's work at uncle's, when the family were all sick with the ague from eating watermelons, and Abe would be rollicking around the country neglecting them. In those early days we all saw hard times; yet a man who was energetic and industrious could dress himself comfortably, and have plenty of plain, good food to eat. I have often felt ashamed of cousin Abe in seeing him a full grown man, gadding around the country barefooted, with his toes outrageously spraddled out by the mud; and instead of his reading his books, as brother John, through the Decatur politician tells us, he would be rowdying around with a pack of wild young men. I well remember when he went courting one of Major Warnick's daughters, in this county, his boots were so miserable bad that his feet were frosted, and he had to lay up at Major Warnick's, for two weeks, and have the old lady nurse and doctor his feet.

I am fully persuaded that brother John is taking the strange course that he is now pursuing for the purpose of making a little money out of a rail speculation, and if I could for one moment think that the Decatur sharpers, in whose hands he has placed himself, would not cheat him out of every cent of the money, I would not spoil the speculation by telling the truth of the facts.

The facts in regard to those rails are these: The little farm that John and Abe made the rails to fence contained ten acres. About five years after this little farm was fenced, the entire fence was burned up, to

my certain knowledge, for I hauled the rails to fence it the second time. Lewis H. Ward, who now resides in this county, witnessed the fire that burned the rails, and he is willing to make affidavit of this fact.

I lived within two miles and a half of this Lincoln farm from the time it was first settled up to 1857, and during these early times our farmers were subject to being visited by devastating fires, and I know the fence around the Lincoln farm was consumed at least three times. And I know that after the Lincoln family had left the farm, that the fence was again burned, and that Shelt. Whily and Daniel McDaniels made the rails and refenced it.

I think, and I am almost certain, that the rails that are now being worshipped all over the North as Lincoln rails, were made by poor Bill Strickland, who is now poor, blind, helpless, and in the Macon county poor house.—and if these philanthropic Republicans would allow me to make them one suggestion, it would be to help poor Bill Strickland, who really did make the rails, and who is as *honest* as Abe or anybody else that ever mauled a rail, instead of spending their money over his rails.

As to cousin Abe being the "Honest Abe politician," that is a new title for him.—When he first came to Illinois, I know that he was a strong Democrat. I always thought that he turned Whig afterwards because he had settled in a whig district.—And when I heard him in 1856, in the court house of Decatur, make a speech, in which he asserted that he would continue to "agitate the subject of negro slavery so long as was heard the crack of the lash upon the yellow girl's back," I did not feel like he was either very honest or very patriotic, for I supposed that he said that for the purpose of catching abolition votes.

I know that cousin Abe cared nothing about cutting the throat of the old Whig party the very moment that he supposed he could make anything by building up a new party. And I never supposed that he cared one cent as to what the principles of the new party should be, only so it was fixed that he could get office.

Now, as to cousin Abe's running flatboats, that amounts to just this: Some young fellows had cut a raft to run down from Jimtown, and Abe, for the fun of the thing, went along instead of staying at home and attending to his own work, that was needing him very much. That is the extent of his flatboating.

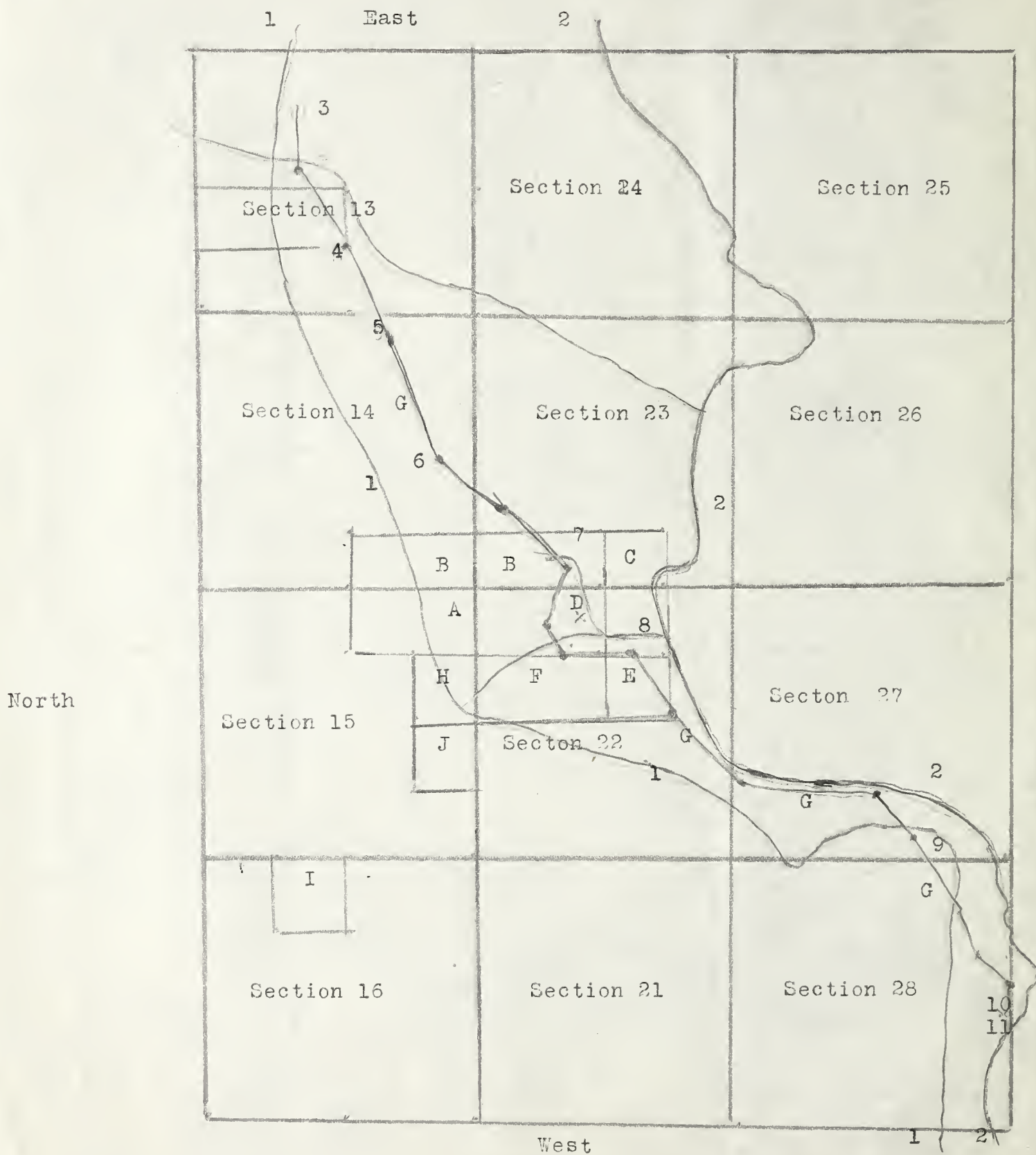
If cousin Abe can honestly get a good office, I want to see him do so; but these abominable lies that are being told on him by politicians who pretend to be his friends, I repel as a family insult.

In my own homely way, I have told the above as it occurred, for the benefit of my honest neighbors and acquaintances, and I wish you to publish it just as it is. I may trouble you again.

CHARLES HANKS.

Many things of many kinds.

Combined Map by Ansen Packard 1849 and Map of U S Original Land Survey 1853-62
Lincoln-Hanks Neighborhood and the Miller-Whitley Mill River Road.



Lincoln-Hanks Neighborhood and Miller-Whitley Mill River Road 1849

- 1 Timber and Prairie Line
- 2 Sangamon River
- 3 Christipher Millers' Lane.
- 4 Miller School House.
- 5 Jacob Hostetler.
- 6 Shepherds.
- 7 Branch
- 8 Fields.
- 9 Prairie.
- 10 Lincoln Cabin.
- 11 Whitleys' Mill on the Sangamon River.

A William Miller Sr. His wife Nancy Miller Wove cloth for Lincoln, she was a sister of John Hanks.

B Charles Hanks, Brother of John Hanks, buried in Gouge Cemetery.

C Joseph Hanks, brother of John Hanks , buried in Gouge Cemetery.

D Gouge Cemetery on Gouge Land.

E William Hanks Jr, brother of John Hanks.

F William Hanks Sr. brother of Lucy Hanks, Lincolns' Grandmother.

Father of John Hanks, buried in Gouge Cemetery.

G Road from the end of Christopher Millers' Lane by Miller School House to the Whitley Mill on the Sangamon River.

This is the road that shows in the picture of the Lincoln Cabin.

H Joseph Hanks.

I Jonithan Brown- not Jonithan B Brown-May be son or at least relation ?

J William Hanks Sr.



Uncle Johnny Hanks died on Monday last, at Decatur, Illinois, aged eighty-eight years. From 1822 until 1860 Mr. Hanks was closely associated with Abraham Lincoln in farming, trading, and other pursuits. He and Mr. Lincoln split rails together eight miles west of Decatur, in 1830, and in 1831 both men built near Springfield the first flat boat that ever floated down the Sangamon, Illinois and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans. The rails which Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Hanks split in Mason county were first shown in the Chicago convention in 1860.

A. C. C. C. C.

S. 963 (18173)

An Intimate Friend of Abraham Lincoln

Special to Pantagraph.

DECATUR, Ill., July 1.—An historical character, Uncle Johnny Hanks, an early associate of Abraham Lincoln, died this afternoon aged 88 years. He came to Macon county from Kentucky in 1828, and two years later was instrumental in bringing Thomas Lincoln and his family here from Spencer county, Kentucky. He donated the logs for their cabin which was built on the Sangamon river, eight miles west of Decatur in the summer of 1830, and also helped Abraham Lincoln split rails to fence a fifteen-acre field. In 1831 he and Lincoln built a flat-boat on the Sangamon river near Springfield, which was the first from Illinois sent to New Orleans loaded with farm products. Hanks was in the Black Hawk war in 1812, and also served two years as wagon master in Gen. Grant's first regiment, the 21st Illinois. He had visited California four times, and until very recently was able to walk with the aid of crutches. He had suffered since the war with rheumatism. He was brought to the polling place in November to vote for Harrison, and was greatly rejoiced to learn of the republican victory.

What is Known of Him Here.

—Yesterday Mr. E. J. Loomis, of 314 West Front street, received a telegram from Decatur stating that his father-in-law, Mr. John Hanks, had died at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. John Hanks was one of the best known of the old settlers of Illinois. He was the employer, intimate friend and companion of Abraham Lincoln. He was 88 years old and was always a strong, vigorous man. His death was caused by dropsy. A PANTAGRAPHER talked with Mr. Loomis last evening and from him gathered many interesting facts regarding the life of Mr. Hanks.

All histories of Lincoln speak in eulogistic terms of Mr. Hanks. He was Lincoln's partner in the flat-boating trips to New Orleans, and was his fellow-laborer and companion in all his wood-cutting and rail-splitting contests. For quite a long time Abraham Lincoln worked for Mr. Hanks on the farm where Mr. Hanks died yesterday, four miles northwest of Decatur.

He and Lincoln were born in the same place in Kentucky, and were close and intimate friends until Mr. Lincoln's death. Hanks was always a democrat until the campaign of 1860, when he worked energetically and enthusiastically for Mr. Lincoln's election. He it was who started the "Lincoln rail" enthusiasm. The state convention met at Decatur in 1860 and the day before the meeting Mr. Hanks went out into the timber and got a rail which Mr. Lincoln had made and on the day of the convention brought it into the meeting amid the wildest excitement. During the campaign he gave a barbecue at which he fed over 3,000 people at his own expense. He spent several thousand dollars in this

MRS. EDNA SAXMAN
709 E. MAIN STREET
PORTLAND, INDIANA

Lewis H. Warren
Zionsville, Ind; Dear Sir.
Knowing that you are
very much interested in
the life of Lincoln, I'm
taking the liberty of asking
you if you can help me
with information regarding
William Banks, son of Joseph
Banks the great grandfather
of Lincoln
10 My own great grandfather

was William Ganks, son of the
former William. In tracing
my ancestry it seems that I
can find very little about this
man.

Enclosed you will find a
self addressed envelope and
I would greatly appreciate any
information you could give me
w the subject.

Sincerely

Mrs. Eva Ganks Seymour.

Hanks Family

September 26, 1929

Mrs. Edna Saxman
709 East Main St.
Portland, Indiana

My dear Mrs. Saxman:

Your letter directed to Zionsville was forwarded to me here at Fort Wayne.

You may feel sure that I am very glad to get in touch with you as I have been working for several years on the Hanks genealogy.

I have quite a complete history of the children of Joseph Hanks of which William was his oldest son.

These are the names of the children as I have them: James, Elizabeth, Nancy, Charles, William, Celia, Joseph, John, Lucinda, Thera, and Andrew Jackson.

One thing that I am very anxious to learn is where Joseph Hanks, the father of William Hanks, came from in Virginia when he migrated through Kentucky. I am wondering if there are any traditions in your family which would reveal this.

I am wondering if it would not be possible for me to call on you at Portland some Sunday afternoon, as it would be a good drive from here down there and back, and I should like very much to talk with you about the family.

Let me know if this would be convenient and I should be glad to bring some of my records along with me.

Respectfully yours,

LAW:VL

Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

October 20, 1937

My dear Mr. [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

Thank you very much for

your letter of the 17th inst. in regard to the [illegible]
[illegible]

and I am sorry that I cannot give you a more definite
answer at this time. I am sure that you will understand my position.

I have been very busy lately and have not had time to
write you more fully. I will try to do so in the near future.

I am sure that you will be satisfied with my answer.
I am, very respectfully,
[illegible]

Very truly yours,
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

I am sure that you will be satisfied with my answer.
I am, very respectfully,
[illegible]

I am, very respectfully,
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

MRS. EDNA SAXMAN
709 E. MAIN STREET
PORTLAND, INDIANA

Mr. Louis A. Warren: I appreciate
the interest you have taken
in my inquiry regarding the
Hanks lineage. I have been
ill since the former letter
came, and my correspondence
has been very much neglected.

However I doubt if any
information I have would
be of value to you, as it all
has been gotten from books, beyond

the third generation. I am enclosing the following.

Myself, Edna Hanks Sayman
daughter of

{ Gus A. Hanks
[Rebecca Hayford Hanks

{ Isaac H. Hanks
[Mary Ann Scott Hanks.

{ William Hanks
[Margaret Hanks

{ William Hanks
[Elizabeth Hall

{ Joseph Hanks
[Ann Shipley (or Lee)

{ John Hanks
[Catharine Hanks

I have dates of all the births, deaths,
marriages and names of children of
each union. except incomplete information
respecting William Hanks and Elizabeth Hall.
Authority of this was taken from family bible.

According to William A.
Barton there was no Ann Shipley.
whom he says was Ann Lee.
This also complicates matters for
me as I have depended on

book information.

So far as I know there are no traditions in our family. In fact until I grew up and became interested no one gave it a second thought. My grand father, Isaac H. Hanks died when I was a child. I can remember his remarking to me time after time that I should be proud for I was related to the greatest American. Also mention was made that his ^{Isaac's} father was a brother to John Hanks so often mentioned in stories as a companion.

MRS. EDNA SAXMAN
709 E. MAIN STREET
PORTLAND, INDIANA

of Lincoln.
In regard to your question
concerning where the Hawks' came
from in Va. I have this.

They resided on the Northern
Neck, at that time the most
isolated of the three main
sections of Va. After the death
of Joseph's mother, which meant
some improvement in their
fortunes - they moved in 1782 -
on Mike's Run of Patterson's
Creek. They remained here until

quite some time after Nancy Hawks
was born to Lucy, before migrating
to Ky.

You, no doubt, have all this too,
as I found it in a magazine
article a few years ago.

I want to thank you again
for the interest and trouble you
have taken and you are very
welcome to any help I might
be to you.

Sincerely yours.

Edna Saxon.

November 6, 1929

Mrs. Edna Saxman
709 East Portland St.
Portland, Indiana

My dear Mrs. Saxman:

A little over a month ago you wrote me relative to information about the Hanks family.

As I have so much material on this family, I did not feel as if I could spare the time to sit down and copy for you a long list of family names,

It occurred to me at that time that I might bring my book along with me if a visit to Portland was agreeable and assist you more easily in that way.

I am enclosing, however, a copy of some information I recently prepared for Mrs. C. R. Galloway of 435 Powell Street, Henderson, Kentucky, who is a descendant of this same family.

I hope you are not hesitating to ask the assistance of this Foundation because you anticipate any charge whatsoever for such services. Everything this Foundation does is gratis and we are very glad to help anybody associated with the Lincoln or Hanks families.

Very sincerely yours,

LAW:VL
Enc.

Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

Hanks family

January 15, 1930

Miss Ipha Robbins
Melalla, Oregon

My dear Miss Robbins:

The letter which you wrote to Mrs. Caroline Hanks Hitchcock of Cambridge, Massachusetts, has been forwarded to me for reply.

I now have in my possession all of Mrs. Hitchcock's records relative to the Hanks family. I regret very much to say that we do not have any record at all about the Nancy Hanks to which you refer. We do have a great many records about William and Elizabeth Hanks and the rest of their children.

William's first child, James, was born in 1794 and it seems by the records I have that Nancy was his third child.

I expect, however, you have a record of the children of William and Elizabeth Hanks. If not, I should be very glad to send you such a record.

I am also interested to learn where William Hanks' family lived in Indiana.

If you could be of any assistance to me in this respect, I should appreciate it very much.

I wish you would also send me the names of Jacob Robbins' children, if possible, so that when the records of the Hanks' family is finally published, it may appear therein.

I am taking the opportunity to enclose some leaflets about the Hanks family which I recently published. I hope you will be interested in this.

Respectfully yours,

LAW:EB
Encls.

DIRECTOR
LINCOLN HISTORICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Jan. 27, 1930

Mr. Louis A. Warren
Fort Wayne Indiana
Dear Sir -

Yours of the 15th
to hand - I am writing
to thank you for the
Lincoln & Hank's items
which you enclosed with
the reply to my letter
- of inquiry - written
to Mrs. Carolyn Hank's
Hitchcock some time
ago - I so enjoyed
her little book - it was
very kind of you to
write me and I will
appreciate any further
facts you may be able to
give me in regard to
any of those people in

the far distant past.

I have read so many
books about Mr. Abe Lincoln
- and they do not tally
at all - However, all those
names are vividly
before me - as my
- grandpa - Jacob Robbins
lived among them
- or near them both in
Ky. & Indiana - He and
little Abe were orphans
together in Ky. and were
much together - then
later Thomas Lincoln's
family were near
neighbors of grandpa
in Decatur Co. Indiana
until the Lincolns
removed to Ill. Years
went by and the call of
the great West appealed

to grandpa & others
though they had good
homes there - with
extensive lands - they
sold and came by the
cane from Indiana
to Oregon Territory in
1852 - I have a sketch
of grandpa's early
life - written by his
eldest son Harvie
Robbins - who was 93
when the article
was presented to me
at one of our assem-
bles - We gather on
the bank of the old
Molalla river - a
part of grandpa and
grandma's old home
here - I have a few
memory sketches

from uncle Harvie
and my father
which were read at
our - at this hallowed
spot - where we children
have roamed the wild
woods at will these
past 65 years -

Grandpa & Grandma
were fine pioneer
people and raised a
nice family - 10
children - They
always were very
progressive and
helped every orphan
- or any one in need.
who came their way
Consequently when
Grandpa and Grand-
daddy Frank became
stranded they knew
where they would be

made welcome - and
as came to grandpa's
home in Indiana where
they lived & helped
with the child rearing
for several years or
until - grandpa
came west.

I will loan you
these records for
perusal if you will
return them to me.

My great grandfather's
name was also Jacob
Robbins. He married one
Hancy Hank - I don't
know all of their sons
& daughters names -
enuff to say one
was William and little
Jodie - my grandpa was
the youngest one when
the mother died - I think

in Ky. as there was
where my grandpa
was born June 4, 1809

I don't know if his
father was married
in Va. or N. C. however
I do know they lived in
all those places and
that gr. grand father
married the second
time a Miss Sparks or
Sparkes - and that
they had a son named
Henry - Grandpa died
at the age of 87 - ~~He~~ spoke
so often of all those
people back there - seems
almost as if we knew them
- The pioneer & residue
talk was better than any
story book to me.

Grandpa said Ab & he
were second cousins
so is William and Elizabeth
Hall Hauke was my grandpa

-grandparents which
uncle Harvie tells us
they were. Their dau-
-ghter Nancy was grand-
-pa's mother. and

Joseph Hanks & his wife's
daughter Nancy was
Abraham Lincoln's
mother - Grandpa
told me that Nancy-
Hanks mother was
raised by her aunt
Lucy - and by the
records which have
been purchased she was
aunt Lucy Shipley Berry
and a sister of Thomas
Lincoln's mother.

If in your research you
should find the marriage
record of Jacob Robbins who
married one Nancy Hanks
will you kindly report to
me - and oblige - ever

Yours truly
John P. Harris
ex ludo

Further - I will be very
glad to have record of
William and Elizabeth's
Kaupe family and also
their son William's child-
ren and ~~children's~~ names and
who he married. I know
his son James married
my nephew's cousin
Rebecca Pollock and
perhaps you know the
tragedy that befell the
father and wife and

The youngest was revived and lived at grandpa - till they came west. They said he was a fine young man.

Seems to me the
much quoted Lucy
could be traced by going
back to Mass & following on.

down through Va.
N. C. and Ky.

All of the many
records are not
correct it seems
I suppose because
there are so many
of the same name.
and some records were
lost - I do not find the
name Lucy among
the Hawks people at all
so this one must have
married into the
name. The name
Robbins are number-
less in America -

Have you been in communica-
tion with Mr Dunham Wright
of Medical Springs Oregon,
he is 87 now but he survis
a live wire in Hawks lore
however - I believe he

may be in error in
regard to which William
Hanks was his grandpa or
I am wrong. He claims
that William & Elizabeth
Hall Hanks daughter
Nancy married Bogie
Brown.

This is why I am
asking you for the
family records of
these two families
as I have the
records he gave me.

Thanking you in
advance I await
reply.

Most cordially yours
Wm L. Hobbs

William + Elizabeth ~~Hanks~~ ~~Hanks~~

Robbins family

February 6, 1930

Miss Ipha Robbins
Molalla, Oregon

Dear Madam:

I was very glad indeed to receive your letter and learn something further about your connection with the Hanks' family. I should indeed like to have the records which are in your possession to look over, and I will take very good care of them until they are returned to you.

I am just starting off on a two weeks' itinerary so I would not send them until about the middle of the month. I will then have more time to go over them thoroughly and possibly give you a more detailed account of your ancestry.

Respectfully yours,

LAW:VL

Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

May 20, 1930

Miss Ipha Robbins
Molalla, Oregon

My dear Miss Robbins:

I recently had a very interesting letter from Mr. John W. Holcomb of Greensburg, Indiana, who is preparing an article on the early Hanks family in his community.

If you have already been in touch with him, you are probably aware of the information he has gathered but if not, I think it would pay you to write him.

In replying to his letter I mentioned your name as having an interest in the Hanks family and so possibly by this time you have heard from him. I feel that you two working together can give us a pretty thorough history of at least one branch of the Hanks family, and I shall be glad to cooperate in any way I can to help you.

Respectfully yours,

LAW:VL

Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

LINCOLN LORE

No. 56

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

May 5, 1930

LINCOLN LORE

BULLETIN OF
THE LINCOLN
HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION



ENDOWED BY
THE LINCOLN
NATIONAL LIFE
INSURANCE
COMPANY

Dr. Louis A. Warren - - - Editor

CALEB HAZEL, LINCOLN'S NEIGHBOR AND TEACHER

According to the testimony of Abraham Lincoln, the name of his second school teacher was Caleb Hazel. Like his predecessor, Zachariah Riney, Hazel was no itinerant pedagogue but a resident of long standing in the Knob Creek community. He was very closely associated with both of the parents of the president, as will be shown.

Some time in the year 1785, Hazel married the Widow Hall. On November 17, 1788, he signed an agreement to pay her orphan children, Elizabeth, Levi, David, and Henry, "the sum of five pounds each" which was due them from the estate of their father who had been killed by the Indians.

Elizabeth Hall and Levi Hall both married children of Joseph Hanks, said to be the grandfather of Nancy Hanks, Lincoln's mother. On January 10, 1794, Hazel signed an endorsement as a witness to a land transaction which took place between two of the sons of Joseph Hanks.

As early as December 9, 1789, Hazel's home had become sufficiently well known to have been designated in a road order as "Caleb Hazel's cabin on the waters of Knob Creek." In 1795 he was appointed a surveyor of the road from "the mouth of Knob Creek to Hazel's cabin."

There is evidence that for some time he kept a tavern or "ordinary," as it was then called. On September 24, 1793, an indictment was brought against him "for retailing spiritous liquors by the small without a license." He evidently continued in the tavern business for in 1797 he was issued a license "to keep an ordinary at his home on Knob Creek." The year after this license was granted, he contracted on the 17th of March, 1798, by a "written agreement" to rent the place for six years to Conrad Suter for \$51.00 per year. Apparently Hazel refused to give Suter possession as is set forth in a suit brought against Hazel. Further difficulties were experienced by Hazel when he sold some property on Knob Creek to Clement Lee and also

deeded the same piece of ground to his stepson, Henry Hall.

It was about this time that Hazel decided to move to Green County. His name disappeared from the tax books of Hardin County and was entered on the Green County records.

In the meantime, four children had been born to Caleb Hazel and the former Widow Hall—Richard, Peter, Caleb, and Lydia. Richard was born May 14, 1786. When the oldest child was twenty years old, the same year that Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married in Washington County, Caleb Hazel bought twenty acres of land in Green County, about halfway between Greensburg and Hodgenville. Probably he had been living on this place for the past three or four years.

Some time after the Lincolns moved to Knob Creek in 1811 Caleb Hazel returned and occupied a one hundred acre tract adjacent to the Thomas Lincoln land. In fact, the house of Caleb Hazel was so close to the Lincoln line that the person who later purchased the cabin wondered whether or not it was on his land or the land Lincoln had owned.

Some time previous to Lincoln's school days, Caleb Hazel's wife had passed away, and when he started out on a second matrimonial venture he secured Thomas Lincoln, his next door neighbor, to serve as his bondsman. This bond signed by Thomas Lincoln October 12, 1816, is one of the last official acts of Thomas Lincoln in the state of Kentucky as the family moved to Indiana within the next month or so.

An endorsement on an early record in the Hardin County court shows that when Thomas Lincoln left Kentucky he stored "about forty bushels of corn in the loft of the house that Caleb Hazel now lives in."

Hazel's new bride was Mary Stevens. She certified in an oath to the county clerk that her age "is far above the demands of the law." It was just previous to this second marriage in 1816 that Hazel became the school teacher of Abraham Lincoln. He was then a widower and must have been about 55 years of age. He had been a member of the South Fork Baptist Church but was given a letter of dismission about the time the church was divided over the slavery controversy. He probably united with the Little Mount Anti-Slavery Church which was organized at that time and with which Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lincoln were affiliated.

We learn from one of the descendants of Caleb Hazel that "he was what

the old people called a school teacher. Our grandfather Hazel was a good scholar for his time and had many fine books leather bound. I believe they were his father's books brought from Virginia." There are several examples of Caleb Hazel's handwriting in the records of the Hardin County court. There is evidence that he was not only a good scribe but a good grammarian as well. There is no question but what he was able to contribute very much to the early educational training of Abraham Lincoln.

It should not be overlooked that he was very closely connected with the Hanks family through his marriage with Elizabeth Hall. Letters from his descendants, which are now before me, claim that the Halls, Hankses, and Hazels all came into the Kentucky country together and were neighbors back in Virginia. There is evidence that he was a friend of the pioneer Joseph Hanks. We have observed that two of his stepchildren married two of Joseph Hanks children, William Hanks and Nancy Hanks, said to be uncle and aunt of Abraham Lincoln's mother. One of Caleb Hazel's own children and a son of William Hanks married sisters.

When Abraham Lincoln went to school to Hazel he was no stranger to the teacher. Hazel was not only well acquainted with the child's parents but he had known the boy's grandparents as well. The Knob Creek school must have been made up, very largely, of cousins. Among these cousins were some of Hazel's own grandchildren.

As the first school teacher of Abraham and his sister Sarah was at least fifty years old when he taught them and as Hazel himself was fifty-five when he taught the children of Thomas Lincoln, the future president's first formal instruction was cared for by men above middle age.

Hazel's last days were spent in Green County on the farm still known as the old Hazel farm. He died on a boat on the Ohio River while on the way to visit his son Peter Hazel.

There are some descendants of Caleb Hazel who feel that Caleb Hazel, Jr., was the teacher of the president rather than the old gentleman. We know nothing whatever about the scholarship abilities of the younger Hazel and preference seems to have been given to the older man as the teacher of Abraham. Caleb, Jr., was married on January 13, 1813, to Polly Atherton, but is said to have been living in Green County at the time Lincoln was attending the Knob Creek school in Hardin County.

Note: This is the second article in a series on the five school teachers of Abraham Lincoln.

The Educational Advantages 24

We first find Hazel coming in contact with the Hanks family when on Jan 10, 1794 he witnesses an endorsement on a deed in which Joseph Hanks who had inherited his father's property the year before, sells out to his brother William.* (53)

We have already found in previous discussions in this book that the Hazel, Hall, Hanks families lived in the Knob Creek Community and the families intermarried.

Our introduction to Caleb Hazel as a citizen is not a very happy one as we find the Hardin County Grand Jury on September 24, 1793 bringin in an inditement against him" for retailing spiritous liquors by the small without a lisencc, within the six monthes last past, known to two of our body."* (54)

Hazel, however, is not alone, as the same grand jury brings in similar charges against Jacob Vanmatre Sr. and Isaac Hynes. Vanmatre had been indited on the information of Hynes and then evidently some one told the jury that Hynes was also guilty.

not
We must allow this offense to weigh too heavily against the character of Hazel, as the temptation to sell a glass of liquor to a thirsty traveler was very great and whiskey was a medium of exchange which the pioneer kept in stock.

In 1797 the Hardin County court issued a lisencc to Caleb Hazel " to ke p an ordinary at his home on Knob Creek."* Wherever (55)

there was a good place for " a stand" on any of these pioneer roads the pioneer could find lodging, and for the protection pf the migratory groups moving into the new country, the county fixed the price of the commodities needed for both man and beast. Hazel thought it best to secure a lisencc before disposing of more liquor " by the small", and we find no further charges brought against him on this account.

Either the business done at "the ordinary" had been a failure or it had been so brisk that it had attracted a lessee, we do not know, but Hazel, so the bill against him says, "on the 17th of March 1798 by a written agreement"..... rented the place for six years "to Conrad Suter for \$51.00 per year. Suter claimed Hazel had refused to give possession.* (56)

We find Hazel again in trouble in 1800 over some property he had owed on Knob Creek. He sold the land to one Lee and before Lee had made all the payments he sold to Daniel Wade, tavern keeper, of Elizabethtown. Hazel gave Wade a deed to the land but Wade did not record it. Hazel then gave his son-in-law Henry Mill a deed for the same piece of property, making the date of this deed antedate the deed given to Wade. In reply to Wade's bill against him Hazel admit all the charges in the bill. This answer of Hazel's was evidently written in his own hand and the spelling, english and penmanship was all that could be desired and showed Hazel to be a man of some education.* (57)

We next find Hazel buying some property in Green County on Jan. 1, 1806.* This land, however, was not far withdrawn from the Knob Creek home as the Green County line was close to Knob Creek. To these 200 acres which he bought in Green County he probably moved, as we find one of his sons marrying in that county the following year.* (58) (59)

When Hazel moved back to the Knob Creek Community he do not know but it is certain that he came back, by the time the Lincolns moved to Knob Creek. It was sometime before before June 4th 1823 as we

find him having some difficulty with the Baptist Church on the Big South Fork. The order reads as follows: "Caleb Hazel gave ^{him} the church satisfaction and restored to fellowship again." (60)

The writer believes that he had been absent from worship during the Green County residence, that he returned to Knob Creek about this time, and found a new Church by the name Little Mount had been started near Knob Creek and got a letter of dismissal from South Fork that he might join Little Mount.

On Jan. 13, 1813 we came across Caleb Hazel Jr. for the first time. The occasion for the record is his marriage to Polly Atherton.* The same year James Hanks, a son of William Hanks, married Polly's sister Rebeckah.* This son of the elder Hazel had been brought up in this community and the meager educational privileges would hardly have been sufficient to make a teacher out of him at this early date. Men in the cramped condition of his father were not sending their children off to schools to secure an education at a time when the labor of a growing boy was needed about the place. The writer also believes that young Hazel and Hanks very early left Kentucky for the west and we find later on both of them selling their right to their father-in-law's estate in Kentucky* Hazel at this time is in Missouri and Hanks in Illinois. (61) (62) (63)

The most important of all the documents bearing on Caleb Hazel is the marriage bond of Caleb Hazel Sr. When Elizabeth Hall Hazel died we do not know, but we are certain of this that when Hazel first became the teacher of Abraham Lincoln he was a widower on Oct. 12, 1816 about two or three months before the Lincoln's left Indiana and when we might expect Abraham Lincoln to be in school. for

Caleb Hazel married Mary Stevens.* Thomas Lincoln was the (64)
bond man for Hazel which vitally connects Hazel and Lincoln.

Thomas Lincoln on this occasion signs his own name.* We are (65)
positive that this is the marriage of the elder Hazel because
of the certificate which the bride presents in order for Caleb
to get the permit to marry her . It follows: " Sir: This is to

certify that I am far above the demands of the law, as I am under
no ones jurisdiction. Given under my hand this 11th day of

October 1816." * This document written and signed by Mary (66)

Stevens herself show her to be a woman of some attainment

and evidently educated before she came to Kentucky. She could

not have married the younger Hazel who three years before had

married Polly Atherton, as Polly was living as late as 1843.* (67)

This might be the proper place to suggest the probable
age of Caleb Hazel . He married Mrs. Hall a widow with five
children previous to 1788. She was probably not less than
thirty years of age when she married Hazel. If Hazel was about
her age, probably not any younger he would have been about 55 years
old when he became Lincoln's teacher. The register which records
the wedding of Caleb Hazel and Mary Stevens names the preacher
as William Downs. Downs was the founder of the Little Mount
Separate Baptist Church. He was pronounced anti-slavery man and
there is evidence that Hazel had some pronounced views along this
line.

On Dec. 30, 1816 John Vennady as agent for Sheridan Stout and Rhoades brought suit against Thomas Lincoln to recover \$ 40.00 in rent which they claimed was due them for the Knob Creek land. They succeeded in securing an attachment on " about forty bushel of corn in the loft of the home that Caleb Hazel now lives in ." * We are of the opinion that when Lincoln (68) left the Knob Creek home for Indiana that Caleb Hazel moved into the house he had occupied, which accounts for the corn being stored in the attic. ~~We~~ We hear of Hazel again in 1830, but how old he was when he died and where he id buried, we are not informed.* His body may have been interned in what is now (69) the old Hazel burying ground in Green County.

CALEB HAZEL

Moubtain Peak Tex. Mar 31, 1896

Grandmother Hall's second husband was Caleb Hazel and they had four children Richard, Peter, Caleb and Lydia. Richard married Sally Jones my mother. Elizabeth Hazel pierce was their oldest child. Peter moved to what they called the Jackson purchase. Caleb (Jr) went to Indiana about the time the Lincoln's went. Lydia Hazel married Izanah Wilcox and they lived about six miles from Bardstown.

Grandmother Hall Hazel lived and died in Green County Ky. Grandfather Hazel married again.... we called her Aunt polly. They had three children that I can recolect Nellie, Sam and Mary.

Jan 11. 1897

I saw his last wife (Caleb Hazel's) once at my father's house on a visit, she was a middle aged woman and red headed Irish and a Catholic.

My mother Elizabeth was born Dec. 13, 1807. Richard Hazel was then 21 years old. Richard Hazel and Sally Jones were married in Green county. *born May 14, 1786*

There is no picture of Caleb Hazel or house in existence. that he lived in.

Caleb Hazel died on a boat (I suppose a flat boat) perhaps on the Ohio River. The cause of his death was eating too much fish. He was either going to New Orleans or to Jackson purchase where his son Peter lived.

Mrs. M.A. Beall

Hazel, Caleb. m. widow Elizabeth Hall.

a. Richard b. 5-14-1786 m. Sallie Jones (b. 3-7-1783) m. Jan 28, 1807
a. Elizabeth Hazel. Peter oldest child - daughter was Mrs Beall

b. Peter b.

c. Caleb Jr. b.

d. Lydia. b. m. Izanah Wilcox

March Term 1802
Daniel Waide Complainant
vs
Caleb Hazel & Henry Hall
In Chancery

This cause came on this day upon the bill answer and other exhibits herein filed and on the arguments of the counsel and mature deliberation being had by the court it is the opinion of the court that the deed of conveyance in the bill mentioned from said Hazel to Hall was fraudulent. Therefore it is decreed and ordered that the said deed be set aside cancelled and annulled, and that the said defendants Caleb Hazel and Henry Hall convey to the complainant by deed of general warranty, within thirty days from this time the 100 acres of land on Knob Creek in Hardin County in the bill, of the complainant mentioned, and that the complainant recover of the defendants his costs by him about his suit in this behalf expended.

Hardin Quarterly Session Ct. Page 293

June Term 1802

On the motion of Daniel Wade by Samuel Bruns his attorney and for reasons appearing to the court, it is ordered that an attachment issue against Caleb Hazel and Henry Hall, for a contempt of this court, in not performing a decree against them in favor of Daniel Wade for certain lands therein mentioned.

Hardin Quarterly Ct. Page 313

October Term 1803

This day came the plaintiff by his attorney, and it appearing upon the sheriff attachment herein awarded, that the defendants have complied with the decree of the said court of quarter sessions, therefore by the motion of the plaintiff by his said attorney, it is ordered by the court that the plaintiff recover against the said defendants his costs in prosecuting and suing the said defendants.

Hardin Quarter Session Ct. Page 437

Nov 17, 1788

Book 2, page 21

Caleb Hazel to William Hall, etc. to him and his heirs forever provided nevertheless, of the said Caleb Hazel of my heirs, or assigns shall pay my step children Henry Hall, Elizabeth Hall, William Hall, Levi Hall and Benjamin Hall, the sum of 5 pounds each in stock or produce when they become of age to receive the same. It being compensation for the effects of their father James Hall which fell into my hands.....

I have set my hand and seal this 17th day of November 1788

Caleb Hazel

Sealed and delivered ~~thereof~~
in the presence of us

John Lee
John Eastwood

Tuesday the 23rd day of September 1800 H@SC

Entry # 1

Levi Hall, William Hanks and Patrick Kalahan stands bound by recognizance to appear here this day appeared and thereupon the atty for the Commonwealth as the said Hall being fully heard and several witnesses being sworn and examined. It is considered by the court th that the said Hall give security himself in the penalty of one hundred pounds and two securities of fifty pounds each. To be in good behavior towards the Commonwealth an all be people for the space of twelve months and one day ensuing. Whereupon the said Levi Hall with Caleb Hazel and William Hall came into court and acknowledged themselves severally indebted to the governor for the time being and his successors, the said Hall in the sum of 100 pounds the said Caleb and William in the sum of 50 pounds each to be of good behavior and keep the peace of the commonwealth and all the people for the space of one year and a day next ensuing to be levied on thier respective goods chattles lands and tenants rendered. Yet upon the condition that if the said Levi Hall be of good behavior and keep the peace as a fore said then this recognizance be void or else to remain in full force. & judgement for costs.

August 21, 1930

Mr. Edwin Davis
No. 8
Decatur, Illinois

My dear Mr. Davis:

Information I used relative to the husband of Nancy Hanks referred to in your recent letter, came to me from Miss Itha Robbins of Molalla, Oregon, who claims to be a descendant of this same Nancy.

You might correspond with her and possibly she can give you some assistance in tracing the children of William Hanks, Sr.

If I find any further evidence relative to the children of William and Elizabeth Hanks, I should be glad to advise you.

I am having your name put on our mailing list for Lincoln Lore so that you will receive it regularly.

Respectfully yours,

LAW:VL

Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

V

They probably thought
poor lawyer - if even they
gave me a second thought
When I reached the Library
I met Edwin Davis - the
Lincoln - Hanks historian
of Antioch - just back
from Iowa with snap
shots and memo of five
limbs of the Hanks
tree - that moved there from
Macon Co in 1836 - four
sisters and one brother of
Uncle John Hanks together
with James Hanks all
moved there together, and
Davis found three generations
sleeping in the old Miller
Cemetery - 19 miles N W

VI

of Burlington - he had to
lay down the fence and
ford a creek to reach the
Graveyard back on the
old Miller farm -

Nancy Hanks Miller lives
there - she was about
twenty years for Grant
West in return for so
many tasks split - while
she lived in Harrodsburg, Ky.
in 1830.

Deane has been hunting this
woman for five years
so he was pleased to locate
her. She was born Jan. 12, 1794
and died July 17, 1873

Her husband was Dr. Miller
of Mason Co - over

J E Sawyer
RFD #1

Treasure
Ill

To

D G Dillehunt
36 E Main
Columbus Ohio

2
Frank: 8-3-35

Your letter with clip-pings just came. I'll try to reply - it's raining daggers and no business anyway. Maybe they'll think I'm busy, and come in and buy a Mag.

Poor Andy Freeman and Ed Laines! What nice soft jobs they had. Hard whiskey will do to the best of them. Almost got me once. Would have if I hadn't left Houston-Texas and that flat low 50-foot altitude RIGHT NOW. Never bothered whiskey after I went to Santone, a 700-foot altitude, high and dry. I had become a Roast in Houston, and realized it. It's a beastly climate, altitude, city and environments - Houston is. I have not tasted this since August 1915, and mighty little beer or stimulants of any kind.

Ed Davis concerned himself with Lincolns and Banks and "crazy hobbles," but chances are he's not walking the streets bleary-eyed and shaky. I am referring your letter to Dr Warren at Ft Wayne - he and Ed may care to compare notes. It's too vague and too distant on Lincolniana, and it's entirely too voluminous and overdone for a bookman anyhow. Maybe I have suggested before that God and Abe surely get tired of being Talked About and Told what to do, and WHO TO DO IT TO.

D B DILLHUNT 36 E Main COL OHIO

August 6, 1935

Mr. D. B. Dillehunt
36 E. Main Street
Columbus, Ohio

My dear Mr. Dillehunt:

Thank you very much for calling my attention to the letter with reference to Mr. Davis' interest in the Hanks family.

I will be very glad indeed to get in touch with him and possibly he would like to have some few items I printed in Lincoln Lore about the Hanks.

I am enclosing a letter which I am sending to Mr. Davis, thinking perhaps you might like to read the contents. Thank you for keeping me in touch with these people who are interested in Lincoln.

Very truly yours,

LAW:LH
Enc.

Director

Hanks family

August 6, 1935

Mr. Edwin Davis
Antioch, Illinois

My dear Mr. Davis:

Through the courtesy of Mr. D. B. Dillehunt of Columbus, Ohio, I have been advised that you are interested in the Hanks history and have recently returned from a trip of investigation which finally resulted in the finding of the grave of Nancy Hanks Miller.

If you have not already seen a copy of the letter which Lincoln wrote to Mr. John Hanks on August 24, 1860 published in Mr. Paul Angle's book on Lincoln Letters, page 53, I think you would be interested in reading it. It speaks directly of the Millers.

Enclosed you will also please find copies of Lincoln Lore, our weekly bulletin, which we will be glad to send to you gratis if you would like to have them.

Very truly yours,

LAW:LH
Encs.

- Director

CC: D.B.DILLEHUNT

Aug. 8

Dear Sir

I notice in the Lincoln Lore of April 29 a list of the children of William Hanks Sr that is different from the list as given by Mrs Manon, daughter of John Hanks, in the Paternity of Lincoln, by Barton on page 404, I think.

The Lincoln Lore, has Nancy as married to Jacob Robbins while Mrs Manon has it to a Mr Miller, first name not given.

I am very much interested in Nancy Miller as a Nancy Miller is said to have woven cloth for Lincoln in exchange for him making her rails.

I want to find who she was.

A William Miller whose wife was named Nancy owned a farm in sec. 15 in the same sec. in which William Hanks^{Sr} owned a 40- and cornering the 80 owned by William Hanks Sr in Sec 22, twp-13 range 1 East of 3 p.m.

That they were intimate is shown by the fact that William and Nancy Miller were witness of the will of William Hanks Jr.

In the same number I notice that you say George Close and Lincoln made rails for James Hanks.

George traded at Ranchaws store in Decatur in 1830.

James Hanks had a daughter named Nancy who married Abe Miller in 1838.

That she could and did weave cloth as could all the Hanks women is remembered by her nephew Irvin Heckel.

Where did you get the list, I have no way of knowing which is right.

If Nancy Miller was a Daughter of William Hanks Sr she would be a first cousin removed of Lincoln.

Edwin Davis

#8 Decatur Ill.

P S I have written a scetch of the year 1830-1831 in which Lincoln lived in Macon Co, for the Ill. Historical Journal and want to find and correct any mistakes.

E.D.

I received a some numbers of the Lincoln Lore and am always interested in anything concerning Lincoln so would be glad to get it regularly as you suggested.

E-D

Sep. 25 1930

Dear Sir.

In the Lincoln Lore of August 11, 1930 is an article quoting W D Howells in a story about Lincoln and George Close splitting rails for William Miller and his wife in exchange for clothing.

I am shure from other sourses that Lincoln did make rails for Nancy Miller and that her husband's name was William but I would like to read W D Howells account of it.

In what book or paper can I find it?

George Close is mentioned in Hollands' Life of Lincoln page 41 and the pole list shows he voted at the so called Lincoln Log Court House Aug. 2-1830 - in Decatur. and traded at James Renshaws Store in 1830 between Aug 6 - Sep 2

Pleas let me know where I can find W D Howells account.

Edwin Davis

8 Decatur - Ill.

Junction State Road 121-132

Edwin D Davis

October 2, 1930

Mr. Edwin D. Davis
R.R. # 8
Decatur, Illinois

My dear Mr. Davis:

The reference to William Miller and his wife as having been associated with Lincoln in the early Illinois days is found in rather a rare volume which I think you might have some difficulty in locating.

As it is only a footnote, I am having a photostat copy made of the page and am forwarding it under this cover. If I can be of further assistance to you, kindly let me know.

Respectfully yours,

LAW:VL
Encl. (1)

Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

Polly Young is mentioned as the wife of a Joseph Hanks in a Life of Lincoln and Sarah Freeman is mentioned by Barton as married to a Uncle of Nancy Hanks Lincoln named Joseph Hanks but I am shure that a woman by that name married Joseph Hanks the brother of John and James. She was a sister or daughter of Elisha Freeman one of the first Commissioners of Macon Co. and he went on her bond when the estate was settled.

William Hanks Sr, married Elizabeth Hall -Sep-12 -1793
 Moved to Macon Co. Ill. in 1828 - Dec. 22 -Harristown Ty.
 Was in Ill. in 1841 Iowa on May 5 1846.

In Ill. March 20 1848. Died in Ill. 1851 or 1852.

U S Census 1810 William Hanks names (E D)		
Males 10 and under	-	2 John born - 1802
		Charles
10-16	-	3 James 1790 ? (1797) (E D)
		William Jr
		Joseph
45 or older	-	1 William Hanks Sr.
Female	-	
10 or under	-	2 Elizabeth ?
		Sarah ?
		Lucinda ?
10 -16	-	1 Nancy B-June 13 1794
45 or under	-	1 Elizabeth Hall Hanks

not born

Elizabeth ?
 Sarah ?
 Lucinda or Lucy ?
 Celia
 Andrew Jackson b-May 15 1815

Nancy-b-June 13 1794-d-Feb 17 1878

married William Miller- who died March 8 1870 aged 74 yr 5 mo 34 d
 both buried in Millersburg C -De Moines co. Iowa.

William Jr-Died Jan. 10 1846- aged 50 yr.

married Mary (Polly) Young-died Dec. 25 1848.

Buried in Spanglers C (Brush Collidge) Decatur Ty- Macon Co Ill.

James- b- 1790 ? D- Jan 8 1852

married Rebecca Atherton Oct 13 1813 in Ky. born 1802 in Ky
 buried in Greenwood C Decatur Ill

Joseph-married Sarah Freeman and died in Macon Co, Sep. 23 1845.

Charles- married Miss Forhead (Mrs Lanon)

had land in Macon Co. Lived in Island Grove-Sangamon Co. (Lamon)

Andrew Jackson -Born- May 15 1815- d-Aug. 15 1889

married Malinda Porter who died Aug 29 1857 aged 43 y 5 m 4 d.

buried in Millersburg C -Pleasant Grove-De Moines Co. Iowa.

married Sophia Row (a widow)

Michaela

(Mrs Henry Hanks told me)

Sarah- married Mr Brown

Lucy or Lucinda

married Thomas Douglass (Mrs Lanon -Dunham Wright)

Elizabeth

married Mr Ray then Mr Dillion

(Mrs Lanon -Mrs Henry Hanks-Mr Ray)

(Mrs Lanon -Lamon's Life of Lincoln Mr Dillon)

John-born- Feb-6 1802 d- July 1 1889

married Susan Melinda Wilson in 1826 in Ky

came to Ill in 1828

Buried in Boiling Springs & HICKORY Point Ty -Macon Co. Ill.

turn to back of page (1) for (3)

Aug. 12 1935.

Dear Sir,

Some time ago I wrote to you in regard to Nancy Miller and some things in the Lincoln Lore-You kindly sent me a photo of a page from Howell's Life of Lincoln. This fit in the chain of facts I was trying to build-but I never got it in my sketch Lincoln and Macon Co. 1830-1831. I wrote twice and then called on Mr Angle-some of the things I sent at the same time did get in.

On July 2 of this year I went out to the Hanks-Miller country in Iowa, Pleasant Grove Ty. (71) De Moines Co.

I found the grave of Nancy and her Husband William Miller also her youngest Brother Andrew Jackson Hanks and his first wife Malinda Porter.

They are in the Millersburg C- on the farm of G M McNeal a grandson of Andrew J Hanks-about 18 miles north west of Burlington.

A great grandson was on the Grand Jury.

A son of Andrew J Hanks still lives at New London but I did not see him(Charles I think).

I saw and talked to the widow of Henry Hanks (son of A J Hanks) who lives at New London Iowa, she was a very nice old lady and knew Nancy Miller and her children.

Across the street at 301 East Main St. lived 2 great granddaughter of Nancy Miller named Jennie and Marie Redfearn-who have 2 pictures of Nancy and William Miller-tryed to take a copy of them but we did not know much about that- and failed.

The Hanks and Millers entered lots of land in that Ty.

William Hanks jr and Joseph of Macon Co Ill. owned land in Iowa.

In regard to your thought that the James Hawks in the page you sent me should be James Hanks, I am shure you are right(the copy in the Historical Library in Springfield has it marked Hanks in the margin) as the Hawks family lived 1 mile north from where I live and 1/2 mile from my Grandfather and there was not any James Hawks that lived in the County at that time or ever as far as I can find.

The grandfather of Maridith Nickelson lived and owned the old Hawks place at a later date.

In the index(Clerks Office Macon Co. Ill.) of the estates-had the mistake Susan Hanks when it should be Susan Hawks.

Nearly all(a grand daughter of John Hanks has moved back to Warringsburg in Macon Co) the Hanks are of the James Hanks branch.

I asked a friend of mine to find out when James Hanks was born as the date is wore out on his tombstone-at the Hanks Reunion this month.

The date given in a history of Macon Co. does not work out right with the 1810 U S census or with the date given in Nancy Hanks-Hitchcock.

James Hanks born 1790 - his father married in 1793-

The U S census of William Hanks has 3 sons between 10-16;

James Hanks wife was born 1802 married according to your book on Lincoln Oct. 13 1813- that would make her 11-rather young even for Ky. but if I remember right her grandson I J Heckel told me she was quite young when James and her came to Ill in a 2 wheeled cart.

Your book said James Hanks sold his right to his father in laws land in Ky. but did not give date.

It was young when she married or when she came-cant remember which.

Some time back there was a list of the children of William Hanks in the Lincoln Lore -enclosed find a list that I have worked out .

I think it is nearly right at least-most of it is from at least 2 different people or books -where it is not in some public record.

Charles as far as the records of Macon Co. did not have a wife.

go to (2)

Celia

married John Dunham Wright on Nov 6 1832 by I. Pugh in Macon Co.
I Pugh was a General in the Civil War.
moved to Iowa was the parents of Dunham Wright (mentioned in your
Book on Lincoln)
John was a constable in Decatur and a Justice of the Peace in Iowa
Both died in Iowa.

Fancy and William Miller. John D. Wright and Andrew J. Hanks were witnesses of William Hanks Jr Will. Nov. 1 1843.
It must have been drawn in Iowa while he was out there getting land.

Joseph Spangler and John D. Wright were Admin.
Joseph Spangler lived in Macon Co. is buried near William Hanks Jr.

I suppose John D. Wright was for Iowa.

The original Will was sent to Iowa and I Pugh made a copy which is in Decatur.

As they say of old please excuse bad writing and spelling.
I pound a typewriter with one finger.

Edwin Davis

Junction U.S. 36 State Rout 132

Post Office

Decatur Ill.

7

William C. Clegg

August 21, 1935

Mr. Edwin Davis
Route 7
Decatur, Illinois

My dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you very much for your very informing letter about the Hanks and Miller families and I shall be very glad indeed to file the information with the rest of the material on the Hanks family.

A week or two ago I spent several days in North Carolina and Virginia looking up the ancestry of the Kentucky Hankses and I think much progress was made.

I will be pleased to keep you in touch from time to time with what is being done relative to the history of the Hanks family.

Very truly yours,

LAW:LH

Director

July 10 1936 Dear Sir-

The last Lincoln Lore had a list of the children and inlaws of William Hanks and wife Elizabeth Hall Hanks.

There were some blanks and some errors that you could correct by a look at your own files-I will suggest some corrections.

Nancy Hanks married William Miller and according to A Lincoln came direct to Ill. from Ky. not through Ind. They entered 80A in section 15 T16 R 1 E 8 pm William Hanks Sr and his son Joseph had 40 A each in same section. and are buried in Gouge Cemetery just a little south of Miller farm in Sec. 22 William Hanks Sr. had 80 A in sec 22 cornering Miller Farm he deeded it to the heirs of Joseph Hanks (40 A0) while in Iowa in the presence of John D Wright J P. Charly Hanks (160 sec 14-230) is just east of Miller farm and is the land Lincoln helped plow in 1830.

Miller and wife went to Pleasant Grove T. (71) De Moines Co. Iowa and entered land there and are buried in Millersburg Cemetery . I sent picture of it to you. William Miller d aged 74 y 5 m 24 d-March 8 1870.

Nancy Miller b June 13 1794-d Feb 17 1873.

Andrew Jackson Hanks-B May 15 1815 d Aug 15 1889 and first wife

Milinda Porter D- Aug 29 1857 aged 43 y 5 m and 4 days are close to the Millers. According to Dunham Wright his father John D Wright and wife Celia Hanks Wright and her mother Elizabeth Hall Hanks are also there.

Celia Hanks and John D Wright were married by I Pugh J. P Nov. 6 1832.

Marriage Records County Clerk D. catur Ill.

Referances- A Lincoln-letter to John Hanks-page 253 New Papers of Lincoln-Angle-

Mrs Manon-child of John Hanks-Page 404 Paternity of Lincoln-Barton
also letter to Frank Sawyers Decatur Ill.

Dunham Wright -Medical Springs Oregon-son of Celia Hanks Wright.
letter to Frank Sawyers

Mrs Henry Hanks Daughter in law of Andrew Jackson Hanks New London

Miss Jennie and Marie Redfern -New London Iowa .Great grand daughters of
Nancy Miller-they had pictures of William Miller and his wife Nancy also
of their son William Jr and wife.

Mrs. Henry Hanks knew Nancy Miller. She said that Andrew Jackson had 3 wives.
Sophia Row (widow) and Micha Moran besides Miss Porter mentioned before.

Joseph Hanks married Sarah Freeman some relation to Elisha Freeman one of the
first also one of the last Commissioners of Macon Co. d-Sep 23 1845

Estate settled in Macon Co-Had land in Iowa and Ill. # 3 Girls

William Hanks married Mary (poly) Young.

William Hanks Jr. D Jan 10 1845 aged 50 Mary D Dec 25 1848 aged 48

Will (copy) drawn I think by John D Wright in De Moines Co Iowa,
witnesses John D Wright ,Andrew Jackson Hanks and Nancy Miller } William
Miller

Will of Mary Hanks both buried in Spanglers C (Brush College)

County Clerk D. catur Ill.

I see by my file I wrote most of this to you Aug. 12 1935.

Nancy Miller is the woman that wove cloth for Lincoln in 1830 as per.
Lincoln Lore and Extract from Life of Lincoln- Howell that you kindly
sent me some years ago.

Edwin Davis

Ps -A Lincoln, Joseph Hanks and John D Wright were in the same company in
Black Hawk War See Lincoln Lore May 16 1938- I think

Edwin Davis Decatur Ill #7

Junction Us 36 State 121

William Hanks Jr lived 2 miles north west of me and some of his 3 boys went
to the same school with my Father Sylvester Davis

E D

July 14, 1938

Mr. Edwin Davis
R. F. D. No. 7
Decatur, Illinois

My dear Mr. Davis:

I am extremely grateful to you for your letter of July 10 calling to my attention some errors which occurred in the copy of Lincoln Lore. We have gathered such a conflicting lot of material here about the Hanks family that when one tries to put them all together and make them harmonize, it is very difficult indeed to do so. Just which records are correct is a very difficult problem.

There was no reason, however, for two or three spaces which appeared and one or two omissions, which should have been corrected by your correspondence which I have, although there is a disagreement in respect to some of the dates and some of the names in the William Hanks and Elizabeth Hall families.

I expect we will have a chance to make the correction in the subsequent issues of the new magazine we are publishing called The Lincoln Kinsmen.

Thanking you again for your corrections, I am

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

12
April 26, 1939 Dear Sir- Honest confession is good for the soul-so they say.
Some time ago I attempted to correct some things I thought wrong in the Lincoln
Lore- I still think the things were wrong-but in at least 2 places I was wrong
to.- now to correct the correction- Joseph Hanks the brother of Old John Hanks
the rail-splitter married Sarah Hunter in 1835 in Sangamon County, Ill.
References- Miss Maud Taggart grand daughter of Joseph Hanks.

Marrige Record Sangamon County.

William Hanks Jr. the brother of John and Joseph Hanks.

William Hanks Jr. m Mary (Polly) Quin.

Reference. Her son Jesse W Hanks m his second wife Louisa Nye on Jan. 3, 1882.
In his affidavit he said his fathers' name was William Hanks and his mothers
maiden name was Mary Quin. This seems to me to be final in both cases.

In the Sangamon County Marriage Records and Probate Records is these names.

Sally Hanks(Sarah) Hanks m J B Brown in 1828.

Lucinda Hanks m Thomas Douglass in 1833.

Reason Ray died in 1833 his widow (second wife I think) was Elizabeth Ray.
I think she was Elizabeth Hanks Ray.

Elizabeth Ray m Samuel Dillon in 1837.

The Early Pioneers of Sangamon County -Powers tell about Thomas Douglass.
It also tells of Reason Ray but does not mention his second wife.

Edwin Davis

7 Decatur, Ill

Junction US 36-State Rout 121.

John Hanks

May 1, 1939

Mr. Edwin Davis
Junction US 36-State Route 121
#7 Decatur, Illinois

My dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you very much for your letter which supplements one written some time ago with reference to the Hanks family. We are very glad indeed to straighten out the family parentage and have our records eventually correct.

Very truly yours,

LAW:FW
L.A. Warren

Director

1911-1912
1912-1913
1913-1914

1914-1915

1915-1916
1916-1917
1917-1918
1918-1919
1919-1920

1920-1921

1921-1922

1922-1923
1923-1924



Nancy Hanks Miller
Millsberg C.
Pleasant Grove Iy
De Morn C Iowa
July 2 1935 -
Photo.

Newton Davis
Edwin Davis

Andrew Jackson
Hanks

Brother of Nancy
Hanks Miller +
John Hanks the
Barkeeper.

Millsberg
Pleasant Grove Iy
De Morn C Iowa
July 2 1935 -
Photo Newton Davis
Edwin Davis

Recd
Nancy Hanks Miller
Pleasant Grove Iy
De Morn C Iowa
July 2 1935 -
Edwin Davis

Hanks Family

August 9, 1933

Mr. Frank B. Sawyer
R. F. D. #7
Decatur, Indiana

My dear Mr. Sawyer:

We have been advised by D. D. Dillehunt that you would probably be interested in the weekly bulletin which we publish and which is sent gratis to about three thousand Lincoln students. Enclosed you will find some of the back numbers and we are happy to place your name on our mailing list for subsequent issues.

Very sincerely yours,

LAW:LH
Enc.

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

Sawyer, Frank R.R.1. Director. Sec - Nov 27. 1933

Mr Louis A Warren

H. Wayne Ind.

CF Dear Mr Warren - Your letter 20th inst. received.

I thank you for the Lincoln pictures received and
for kindly offer to send me Lincoln Lore - I look
forward to its arrival and also to back issues which
you promised to send.

Yours very truly,

Frank E. Sawyer.

6
RR1 - Decatur, Ill., 2/12/35.
Dr L.A. Warren

Ft Wayne Ind.

Dear Mr Warren - Ben Dillhunt
informs me you are going
to the coast soon -

If you reach Oregon go to
Medical Springs and see
Dunham Wright - aged
90 and over - See his two
books - Lincoln relics - and
get from him the names
of John Hanks brothers
and sisters - His mother
Celia Hanks was probably
a sister.

This list seems hard to
get, or I have found
it so, None of the family here

can give anything of value,
If you get list from
Wright let me have a
copy.

Your friend

Frank E. Sawyer

February 19, 1935

Mr. Frank E. Sawyer
R. R. 1
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Mr. Sawyer:

Because of the fact that Dr. Warren will not go to Oregon during his tour of the west coast, it will be impossible for him to call on the individual mentioned in your letter. Had he gone to Oregon I am sure he would have been very much interested in finding this man who might have given him some information concerning the Hanks family. I know Dr. Warren will appreciate having this brought to his attention and I am sure he will regret the fact that he was unable to visit him.

Yours very truly,

RGM:LH
R. Gerald McMurtry

Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

75

R.R.1 - Decatur Dec - 5/26/36.

Dear Mr. Warren - There is a clip
from Sunday Review - You
might like to run down to
Shiloh for Memorial Day services.
It looks now like Macon County
will have a State Park
containing the site of the Lincoln
Macon County home 1830 - The
County will pay for land
needed for a wide road to
the proposed park - The State
will do all road work and
build a bridge across the
Saugamon and landscape
the park area and erect
proper markers. That timbered
area will brighten up once the
road and park are established.

Our mutual friend D.B. Tillman
36 E Main St., Columbus Ohio
is on sick list - nervous attack
of some sort.

If you wish to contact
Mr Don Baker address him
The Millstone Union, Decatur.

Yours friend.
Frank E. Sawyer.

May 27, 1936

Mr. Frank E. Sawyer
Route 1
Decatur, Illinois

My dear Mr. Sawyer:

Thank you very much for forwarding the clipping and I wish it were possible for me to at Shiloh for the Memorial Day services, but this is impossible.

However, the Librarian of our Foundation will be through Decatur on Sunday, May 31, and he will probably have an opportunity to see the cabin site and the court house which are of interest.

I regret to learn of Mr. Dillehunt's illness and trust he may soon recover.

Very truly yours

LAW:LE

Director

R.R. 1 - Decatur, Ill., Nov 11 - 1935.

Dear Doctor - A revival of interest in local Lincoln history is pending, due to a probability of the State making a park containing the site of Lincoln's 1830 home here in Macon County. Donations of right of way are being solicited and sometimes secured for a road way past the cabin site, from Rt 48 to Rt 10. That will bring up the Hank's family record and I have one question to ask you - There is William Hank's buried - I mean the father of John Hank's - (Uncle Johnny). The John Hank's farm will soon go the way of all land near cities. Will be subdivided. a five acre tract just west of the buildings is now for sale in lots

In 1930 I helped locate the sites of the
two log structures built by John Hawks
in 1828 and 1854 - both had sheltered
Lincoln. Both have been gone long ago.
And a brick house now stands just
East of the sites - This house was built by
John Hawks in 1866 from brick burned
on the farm. The farm has been owned
by others since Hawk's estate was
settled in the early 1890's. Many visitors
think this brick house is the one
that sheltered Lincoln - there are other
brick houses in the neighborhood that
were built 1850-52, and that may
account for it.

Let me know about William Hawks Sr. - Local
traditions conflict - some say he is buried in
Kentucky - others say Iowa - others say Illinois.
Very truly yours,
Frank E Sawyer

November 14, 1935

Mr. Frank E. Sawyer
Route 1.
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Mr. Sawyer:

I was pleased to learn of the revival of interest in Lincoln history in Macon County as this, after all, is the more important of the earlier Illinois communities.

We have here in our collection a statement by one of William Hanks' granddaughters who was present at the funeral, that his death occurred in the summer of 1851 or 1852 and that he was buried about six miles west of Decatur in Gouge cemetery.

This, I think, will give you the information you desire.

Very truly yours,

LAW:LH

Director

Special to The News-Press.

LAMONI, Iowa, Feb. 12. "Nancy has a boy baby over to our house," was the first proclamation connected with the



life of Abraham Lincoln, according to Dunham Wright, an uncle of S. C. Wright, recently of Lamoni.

The declaration was made by Thomas Lincoln, Abe's father, to Mrs. William Hanks,

grandmother of Dunham Wright, as he pulled the latchstring at the Hanks cabin on the morning of Feb. 12, 1809. Grandmother Hanks hurried to the Lincoln home, arriving in time to give the future president his first bath, Mr. Wright relates. He was reared by his grandmother and through her received many anecdotes of Lincoln's life, some of them never published. Mr. Wright now lives in Medical Springs, Ore.

Contrary to tradition, Mr. Wright says, it was warm and spring-like on that Feb. 12, so much so that Dennie Hanks ran barefoot behind his mother to see the new cousin.

Mr. Wright has in his possession the small Bible from which his grandmother asserted Abe took his first reading lessons. It was at the Hanks home that Abe did much of his studying by the light of hickory bark burning in the fireplace.

Dunham relates another story of his Aunt Nancy Hanks Miller and the boy Lincoln. Abe agreed to cut seven cords of wood from the timber for a pair of jeans pants made by Mrs. Miller. It took him three days to cut the wood, but he felt well repaid.

Mr. Wright's grandfather was among those who comforted Lincoln after his betrothed Ann Rutledge died. As he walked out into the yard and grasped his uncle's hand, Grandfather Hanks said his face was shadowed by that sad look that remained with him the rest of his life.

Dunham Wright

C O P Y

R3D #7

Decatur, Ill., Sept. 13, 1935

Dear Friend Bear:

Here in Macon County we have in the Recorder's Office a Tract Index. In it each quarter section is given separate space and every document on record that affects the title to that quarter section or any part of it is indexed - letter - number - parties' names - filing date - date of document - book and page, together with legal description - a very useful and convenient service useful to laymen and lawyers alike. I was in Decatur today and in fifteen minutes I had the recorded history of title to this tract of land that I am sure is your birth place. Here it is - Hanks and all:

N.W. 1/4 N.W. 1/4, Section 28, Township 17, Range 2 East of the principal meridian, Macon Co., Ill.
U.S.A. Patent to Philo Hale, October 13, 1838.
Philo Hale Estate to John Hanks, Deed, July 25, 1855.
John Hanks to William J. Hanks, Bond for Deed, Feb. 1, 1869.
William J. Hanks and wife to Henry Myer, Bond for Deed, Nov. 23, 1869.
John Hanks to William J. Hanks, Deed, Feb. 14, 1870.
William J. Hanks to Henry Meyer, Deed, Feb. 14, 1870.
Henry Meyer to Samuel Bear, Deed, Oct. 31, 1874.
Samuel Bear to Alfred W. Bear, Deed, Apr. 12, 1878.
Alfred W. Bear to Charles Lewis, Deed, Oct. 6, 1883.
Charles Lewis, widower, to Mary Bear - my daughter - deed to
N 60 acres S.W. 1/4, Sec. 28-17-2 (which includes the N.W.N.W.)

So you see John Hanks owned this 40 acres from 1855 to 1869 - ample time in which Lincoln could have visited who ever of the Hanks clan may have lived on it. I am sure this is our Uncle Johnny, as he owned land just south of it. Just who William J. Hanks is, I am not now certain. It may have been a son of John's ~~brother James~~ (Cholera Bill) or it might be a son of John's brother James who owned the east half of this same quarter section, ~~but~~ but that ownership is not so important. It may be safe to assume that Uncle Johnny built a cabin followed by a brick house, or may be first house was your brick house - so go ahead - say you have strong reason to believe from recorded evidence that Lincoln visited his relative, Hanks, in this house.

I now believe it must have been an older son of Uncle Johnny than Grayson Hanks, altho Grayson may have lived there, but too late for a Lincoln visit. Grayson Hanks and Mary C. Montgomery were married in 1862, says my Macon Co. History, so that lets Grayson out as a home keeper in time to entertain Lincoln. He had two older brothers, the William mentioned above and the oldest, Lewis, who went to your country about 1853, and it is a son or grandson of his, named Hanks, who is in business in Klamath Falls, Oregon. He must be alive for my letter to him two years ago did not return, nor did he acknowledge receipt - not interested perhaps.

Ben (Dillehunt) has nothing on you now, with his granddad's lawsuit with Lincoln one of the attorneys.

I examined the circuit court docket beginning 1850 and found Hanks in court as jurors and also litigants. I also found some things that smelled like scandal.

county

In those days ~~circuit~~ courts did not exist and circuit courts heard all petty criminal cases above the Justice of the Peace courts, so the docket was filled with "gaming," "tippling," "riot," "Prairie burning," "selling flesh of a diseased animal for food," "violationsof estray laws," "disturbing congregation for worship," "assault," &c.&c. Prairie burning is out of date, also estray laws are little used, and disturbing of religious worship has nearly disappeared with the preaching of Hell Fire and Damnation and the preachers of that early day. We have "tippling" and "assault" in plenty today, and our pure food laws are an enlargement of that old law against contamination of food offered for sale. "Gaming" is a daily chore almost in all parts. While leafing through this record book, I found a new Lincoln item - he moved the admission to practice before the Court of - Evans - an Indiana attorney - a courtesy as well as a formality.

The entries of course were in long hand and the clerk made it as brief as the law allowed - no mention of names of attorneys were hardly ever made, hence it is difficult to find who employed Lincoln or other lawyers of his days.

That person Philo Hale, who "patented" your birthplace was a pioneer "land shark" who speculated all over this county in the '30s and '40s - owned thousands of acres at death, some of which remains yet in the family. He was buried for a decade or longer on one of his farms over towards Mt. Zion; later removed to some cemetery unknown to me.

All around you may hear the tractors humming, getting wheat ground ready, plowing, discing, harrowing. Bean harvest draws near and wheat seeding also - so it behooves speed.

The radio is loud with General Pershing's birthday celebration. I like historical drama, Lum and Abner comic, One Man's Family, Death Valley Days, Vic and Sade comic, Arthur Sears Hennings' Washington news. Sometimes I get Booke Carter, listen to a ballgame broadcast, markets and news casts make up my radio favorites. I read history, biography, detective and wild west stories, Decatur papers, United States news, Country Gentlemen, Prairie Farmer, Sunday Chicago Tribune. That's the story of my reading. My daughter takes a dozen magazines, fiction and professional. My wife takes home magazines, and the son a varied assortment.

No more at present.

Your friend,

Frank E. Sawyer

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OREGON SHORT LINE RAILROAD COMPANY
OREGON-WASHINGTON RAILROAD & NAVIGATION COMPANY
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GENERAL FREIGHT & PASSENGER AGENT
J. C. CUMMING,
ASST. GENERAL FREIGHT & PASSENGER AGENT

751 PITTOCK BLOCK
PORTLAND, OREGON

Sept. 18, 1935

Dear Frank (Copy to Ben)

So rushed at the office I haven't time for a letter, but I do want to get off acknowledgment and my deep appreciation of the trouble you have taken as evinced by your letter received yesterday in which you gave history of ownership of my birth place. Yes, I think with that evidence, I can say without the least reason for doubt that Lincoln doubtless did visit that spot and perhaps ate and slept in that old house ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ as he unquestionably would have visited his Hanks kin at various times.

In previpus letter you asked if I remember if there were any evergreen trees. Sure - I came near mentioning them in my former letter but decided was hardly worth speaking of and too I could not remember how many there were. I am sure of one, possibly 2 along the fence just north of the yard gate - might have been one or more on other side of gate too. I never paid much attention to them as they were comparatively small - didn't bear anything a kid could eat, and not big enough to climb. Don't remember that they shed their foliage. I remember better the currant and gooseberry bushes on south side of the yard. In season I was always looking for a ripe gooseberry.

I am sure stepping out this week. Monday night, Masonic
SHIP AND TRAVEL BY RAIL

1 dge; last night (Tuesday) Sons of American Revolution 6 pm
dinner followed by dñssussion two speaks on Constitution - one,
a Democrat, favoring a liberal interpretation with respect to
revision, the other, a Rep., strict adverence. The Dem. spoke
first and the Rep. congratultted him on fine Rep. speech, and when
the Rep. finished the Dem. made the same comment as to Dem. speech.
Good time, good feeling and worth while - good ctowd too.
Tonight is pinochle night at Masonic Club.

More later. Thanks.

Walter

Portland, Ore., Sept. 29, 1935

Frank (with copy to Ben)

I am down to the office tonight, in order to take care of pressing work. This office has been a madhouse all month - we have been swamped. At present I couldn't get off even to go to my own funeral, let alone a trip east. However, the rush should be over by next month. Summer excursion fares will be off Oct. 15th, and always after that business slacks up - too big conventions and big train movements are over, and I hope that when the date for my vacation rolls around I will be able to get away as planned.

I made copy of Frank's letter of the 13th, giving history of transfers of the 40 acres on which was the brick house in which I was born, and mailed it to Uncle Sam Bear for his information and to develop from him any further light he could throw on the subject, particularly as to whether the Henry Myer who preceded my grandfather and father in ownership was any relation to grandfather's first wife (my grandmother) ~~was~~ who was a Myer.

I had previously written Uncle Sam before receipt of Frank's letter asking what he knew about the Hanks ownership, and today I received a letter from him in answer, and which crossed my last to him. I will make a copy tomorrow (if I get time) and send it to you, as it has some interesting bits. You will note he says this William J. Hanks was "Cholera Bill" Hanks. You also note he speaks of the trees on the place and their origin - my father having gotten from his brother-in-law, Alonzo Disbrow. There were two wells on the place in my time - the house well, and the barn lot well. I imagine it was the barn lot well that Uncle Sam helped to dig.

Ernest, he speaks of, is Uncle Sam's oldest son who lives in Philadelphia. I hope I get back there before Uncle Sam goes east. Received a card from Aunt Em Reisinger written in Michigan where they had gone on a visit to Uncle Ed's brother.

I was reviewing the Macon County History this evening before coming back to the office, checking up on the period or rather the particular year in which Abe was located in Macon County. I find it was quite early, possibly 20 years before 1855. In 1855 to 1869, the years the farm was in Hanks' possession, Lincoln then was a "big lawyer" (I should say after 1855 to Lincoln's death) and his trips to Decatur ~~were~~ doubtless more or less infrequent and he was probably taken up with court affairs or political meetings. It is possible he might on some of those occasions went out to my brink house to see the kin but not so probable as I at first had surmised. Still it is possible, and like I first wrote, a surmise of today becomes a positive fact 50 years from now. Anyway it is something to have lived on a place that was once property of Johnny Hanks.

I must go home and go to bed. Worn out, having been out every night this week.

W alt

C O P Y

Decatur, Ill., Sept. 15, 1935

Dear Nephew and Family:

Yours received a few days ago. Will endeavor to answer it to best of my ability.

I note your first sentence of your correspondence with Frank Sawyer - a fine man and one of intelligence.

Yes, Emma has told me before of your correspondence and asked me about the different Church memberships of the Bears. (I had inquired why Grandfather Samuel Bear was a Lutheran when his brothers were Church of God - Walter) I could not give you the reasons why only I guess that marriages makes some changes. I presume father's - your grandfather - marriages of three times has had a bearing, as my mother and Emma's mother were Lutherans, but I do not know what denomination your father's mother was. I never heard.

In regard to the old brick house you were born in, yes when we first came here there was a family living in it by the name of Hanks - Will Hanks. I remember well they called him "Cholera Bill." I think a cousin of old Johnny Hanks, the Abe Lincoln chum. As for Lincoln being in the house you were born in, I could not say, but I would presume it very likely.

Nothing remains of the old place but three trees. Your father set out a kind of spruce tree he got from your Uncle Lon Disbrow. They stand next the road and are quite tall trees now. I remember the house quite well, and the well your father and I dug one late winter or early spring. I do not remember the year but I do remember digging through 4 feet of frozen ground by pick and ax to get to the unfrozen ground so we could dig by spade.

Father bought the 80 acres - 40 from a man by name of Myers and the other from I think old Johnny Hanks, and afterward gave the equity he had to your father and your Uncle Will as compensation of the time they had served at home after they became of age.

Well I am glad you are coming back again this fall, and hope you will get here before I go east. I contemplate going to Ernest's for the winter, if the Lord's will, the last of October or first of Oct.

I have been very busy this year improving the 80 I bought of Frank Frazer, the old Henson home. I am painting the house at present - about two days work and will have it completed. Will be busy taking care of the peaches the next couple weeks. Trees are loaded and breaking down with fruit. Crops are fair, wheat did not do so good - the black rust struck it and damaged it. The corn is very good, nothing big. Soy beans are good and commencing to ripen. Well I suppose Emma has given you all the local news. Everyone well as far as I know. Leonard Bear's oldest boy
over

Dr Louis A Warren -
Lincoln Natl Life - Ft Wayne

9-24-35

Dear Dr Warren:

Handing you Frank Sawyer's letter to Walter Bear (copy) dated Sept 13th; copy of Bear's to Sawyer dated Sept 20th, and copy of Uncle S E Bear to Walter dated Sept 15th - largely Lincoln chatter.

At last we find that Abe got into a "Bear" House. - and Got Out.

I shall not undertake to comment, interesting as the subject is - just passing to you for analytical interest, as you appear to be a Sleuth for Clues.

With 111 rare Lincoln items to gaze at and marvel that there is not a man in Ohio who would give more than \$1.11 for the lot. does not make Abe a timely subject to a cold-blooded Book Dealer. At that, Grant was born in Ohio, and his cabin stands in the State Fair Grounds, yet no man will pay 48-cents for Mark Twain's big \$10 2-vol Memoirs of Grant which busted Mark, Mark and John Hay, if they ever look back, no doubt rejoice they lived Here when they did. Here, too.

Garfield and McKinley are as popular as Gideon and Gabriel. Nan Britton's "The President's Daughter" is still called for.

D B DILLEHUNT
36 EAST MAIN
COLUMBUS OHIO

DB-D

September 30, 1935

Mr. D. B. Dillehunt
36 East Main Street
Columbus, Ohio

My dear Mr. Dillehunt:

Thank you for another instalment of interesting data on the Macon County environment of the Hankses and Lincolns.

I expect you noted in our recent edition of Lincoln Lore an attempt to compile the various editions of the Lincoln-Douglas debates which were printed in Ohio. You ought to be in a peculiar position to observe if there are other copies in your possession or which you come across which do not harmonize with the list already given. We will be glad to pay \$3.00 for any one of these editions not listed in the Lincoln Lore which I enclose.

It is barely possible you might be able to pick up some rare Lincoln pamphlets printed in Ohio. These, of course, we will be glad to acquire if we do not have them, although, as you know, our collection is quite complete. Thank you for putting through the interesting bits of folklore.

Very truly yours,

LAW:LH

Director

5

12-1-33

Frank E Sawyer - RFD#7 - Decatur Ill - Dear Frank:

Your good letter of Nov 29th I am forwarding to Dr Warren of the Lincoln Life. I am sure he will get a "kick" out of your Hanks genealogy experience, assuming, of course, that he is one of the Hanks Cranks - we all know he's a Linkun Blinkun.

Of one thing I am certain, you'll never convince the lady that the Old Timer in the Tom Shoaff photo is not her father, John Hanks. Somehow I had the impression that one is John and the other Dennis, being Lincoln's own uncles, though I never knew which one the artist eliminated and substituted therefor Honest Abe in his Presidential garb 20 years before he became President. The first thing I propose doing when I get to Heaven (and you don't see any question mark) is to ask Abe how much fun he has been having out of that Old Picture. I'll bet \$947.82 that he prevailed upon the Lord to let John and Dennis and the Photographer in - to swap stories with.

The Hanks must have been a numerous tribe. I now understand how the West populated as rapidly as it did.

Decatur appears to be as foolish over politics. I'm not! I wouldn't go around the block to vote a Methodist Minister into office. He could be crooked to start with. If he was not, he soon would be.

We enjoyed a most Sane and Sober Thanksgiving - not even Ham-and muchless Turkey. We cut out meat last spring (meat of every kind) and all feel better. Man was never invented to consume Dead Animals - Live Animals were created to eat Men. And animals never feast on Dead Men. Who wants to be a Buzzard? Fruit, Vegetables and Cereals comprise our diet. Sometimes we conclude that we are about to develop Brains.

otra

Well, here's a gang of Mag Swappers, so adios hasta ~~xxx~~ tiempo (Goodbye until another time).

Dave

John Hanks and Lincoln

Cousin Played Important Part for Decatur in Lincoln's Life

TODAY is the 138th anniversary of the birth of John Hanks, the man most responsible for giving Abraham Lincoln to Illinois, who aided in giving the nation a slogan when Lincoln was candidate for President and played an important role in the life of Lincoln as it is associated with Decatur.

There are residents in Decatur who do not know that John Hanks was buried in Boiling Springs cemetery, four miles northwest of Decatur. There a modest gravestone records these words: "John Hanks died July 1, 1889, 87 years old, four months and 22 days."

Because John Hanks had much to do with Lincoln coming to Illinois and making his first home in Macon county, John Hanks holds an important place in the Decatur history of Lincoln from the time Lincoln first arrived on Lincoln square until he was selected by the Illinois Republicans in the Decatur Wigwam as their choice for President of the United States.

John Hanks was born in Nelson county, Kentucky, Feb. 9, 1802. He was a first cousin of Abraham Lincoln's mother and also a cousin of Dennis Hanks who was born May 15, 1799, in Hardin county, Kentucky. The marriage of Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham, and Nancy Hanks was the first inter-family relation of the two families although the name of Lincoln and that of Hanks were found in the same community in Pennsylvania, in Virginia and in Kentucky.

John Hanks was seven years old when Abraham Lincoln was born. He lived 40 miles from the Lincoln home. Dennis Hanks lived two miles away and was not quite ten years old when Lincoln was born. It is said Dennis saw Abraham Lincoln before he was 24 hours old.

Dennis was reared by Thomas and Betsy Sparrow, who had no children of their own, Betsy being Dennis' aunt. Dennis was a good scholar, a good penman and was in the Lincoln home often. It is said he taught Lincoln the alphabet.

It is interesting to note that Abraham Lincoln and Dennis Hanks were almost constant companions from the time Lincoln moved to Indiana in 1816 until he left Decatur in 1831. John Hanks was almost 20 years old before he became well acquainted with Abraham although he knew the family.

A few months after the Lincolns moved to Indiana when Abraham was seven years old, the Sparrow family followed taking Dennis Hanks along. The Sparrows lived with or near the Lincolns. In December, 1819, Thomas Lincoln went back to Kentucky and married

Mrs. Sarah Johnston. Two years later Dennis Hanks married Mrs. Lincoln's eldest daughter, Elizabeth.

Others came to the Lincoln home in Indiana. There was Squire Hall who married Mrs. Lincoln's youngest daughter and John D. Johnston, a brother of Mrs. Lincoln. In 1822, John Hanks came to the Lincoln home in Indiana and stayed with or near the Lincolns for four years. John made various trips back to Kentucky, made trips down the river to New Orleans but always came back to the Lincoln home.

On one of his trips back to Kentucky, John Hanks was married. He brought his wife in 1828 and stayed a month with the Lincolns. They were on their way to the wonderful new country of Illinois. Settlers were pouring into Illinois from Kentucky and Southern Indiana. Many went down the Ohio river and up the Mississippi to St. Louis. John Hanks talked to Thomas Lincoln about the new country and told him that if it looked to be a good place he would send him word.

John and his wife came on in the late summer. They liked the Sangamon river valley. There was no Macon county then, no Decatur, only a few scattering settlers, most of them along the river. The prairie was covered with grass six to 12 feet high. The roads were mere trails.

Only two years before that the last Indians had left this section of the state. The important spot in this vicinity was Lorton's trading house built in 1816 eight miles northeast of Decatur on the river. The last trading with the Indians was in 1826 but the Lortons continued the post until Decatur was founded.

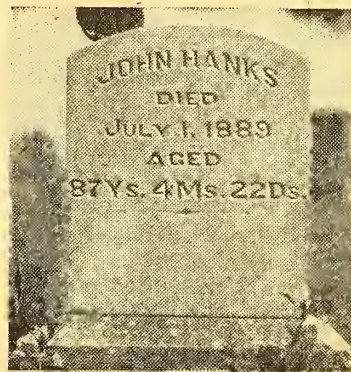
When Hanks and his wife arrived there was a Ward settlement on the south side of the Sangamon river south of the present County bridge. There was a Stevens settlement on Stevens creek three miles northwest of Decatur. John went along the Sangamon river to the west, cut trees for a house but decided for some reason that he didn't like the spot and in the fall erected a home four miles northwest of Decatur near the Stevens settlement. His place was in the southern part of Hickory Point township.

New settlers were coming in, many arriving in 1829. John Hanks wrote to Thomas Lincoln describing the new country and suggested that he come to Illinois. Milk sickness which took Thomas Lincoln's first wife appeared in Spencer county, Indiana again in the fall of 1829 and Thomas Lincoln decided to come to Illinois.

There can be little doubt that John Hanks was responsible in



JOHN HANKS



JOHN HANKS' GRAVE

bringing Abraham Lincoln to Decatur and Illinois.

In the fall of 1829 when Thomas Lincoln decided to come to Illinois, Decatur was laid out on a 20-acre plot among stumps. In March 1830, the Lincolns started. There were 13 in the party and it took them 15 days to cover 200 miles. The party consisted of Thomas Lincoln, his wife, and Abraham Lincoln; Dennis Hanks, his wife and four children; Squire Hall, his wife who was a daughter of Mrs. Lincoln, and a son; and John D. Johnston, brother of Mrs. Lincoln.

Hanks met the Lincoln party on its arrival in Decatur. They stopped over night on Lincoln square and then went to the John Hanks

farm. Hanks told Lincoln about the place on the Sangamon river where he had felled trees and told him he might use the logs for a cabin. The year that Abraham Lincoln lived in Macon county is another story that often has been told.

Dennis Hanks and family moved on later to Coles county, became interested in the show business, moved to Charleston and died there in 1892. John Hanks, however, continued to be connected with Abraham Lincoln. In February of 1831 during the deep snow, Denton Offutt came to the Hanks home to hire him to run a flat boat for him. Offutt had heard in Kentucky that Hanks was a good man with a boat.

John Hanks got Abe Lincoln and John Johnston to go with him on the flat boat trip to New Orleans. In March of that year Abe and John Hanks went down the river in a canoe, found Offutt in Springfield. There was no flatboat so Hanks, Lincoln and Johnston cut timbers and made the boat in about four weeks. The boat was loaded with barrel pork, corn and live hogs.

On April 19 they arrived at the New Salem mill and became fast on the Rutledge mill dam. After getting across the dam they went on their way down the Sangamon, Illinois and Mississippi to New Orleans. They arrived in May. It was on this trip that Lincoln saw how Negro slaves were treated and stirred him deeply.

The three came back by steamboat to St. Louis in June. Abe and Johnston went to Coles county where Thomas Lincoln had moved from Macon county in June and John Hanks went to Springfield and thence to Decatur.

Lincoln and Hanks were in the Black Hawk war but not in the same unit. Hanks did see Lincoln often, however, in Springfield and Lincoln always visited the Hanks home when he came to Decatur in the practise of law.

In May, 1860, when the Republican convention was held in Decatur, Hanks again played a prominent part in Lincoln's life. Lincoln was uncertain whether he would get the Illinois endorsement of his candidacy as the Chicago delegation was not too strong for him.

When the name of Lincoln was mentioned John Hanks was one of the men who came walking into the convention with two fence rails and the convention went wild. Lincoln was thereafter known as the "rail-splitter." Ida Tarbell in her history of Lincoln, says of this incident:

"Probably never in the history of this country has there been anything picked up more quickly as a fitting campaign cry than those

rails, unless perhaps the log cabin in the days of Harrison."

Those rails didn't win the nomination for Abraham Lincoln in Chicago that summer but John Hanks the man who brought Abraham Lincoln in 1830 sent him out of Decatur in 1860 with a slogan that did much for him in the campaign and election. Ida Tarbell says:

"There began that day at Decatur, when John Hanks marched into the hall with the rail that Abe made, an outburst of pioneer enthusiasm which never has been equalled in the country. Slogans, campaign signs, cartoons from now on used the rail as a party symbol."

Both John and Dennis Hanks were Democrats and although Dennis grew up with him he did not vote for him for President. John Hanks did vote for him and after the Civil war in which he served two years as a wagon tender having entered the service at the age of 59, he changed his politics to Republican.

John Hanks visited Lincoln in Washington after Lincoln became President. He made three trips to California and the West, one of them in the gold rush. He was known about Decatur as Uncle Johnny and always was ready and willing to talk about Lincoln until he died.

Fifty years ago last July 1, John Hanks died after being in ill health many months. He was buried in Boiling Springs cemetery. When the snow and ice have melted and the bright spring sun shines, visit the grave for it is the grave of a man who played an important role in the life of Abraham Lincoln and Decatur.

O. R. K.

Decatur (Ga) Journal

2/9/40

April 2, 1948

Mrs. Chas. Hindley
1715 North Ross Street
Santa Ana, California

Dear Mrs. Hindley:

Back at my desk after a long speaking itinerary on the Western Coast I am trying to check up on some of the notes which I made and I find that I am to send you a little booklet on the Hanks Family. You will please receive them under separate cover with my compliments.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

Santa Ana Sunday Globe
Feb 8, 1947

Lincoln's Day Brings Family Memories to Santa Anan

Thursday is Abraham Lincoln's birthday and in the Charles Hindley home, 1715 N. Ross st., it will be more than just another holiday.

For the Civil War leader and Mrs. Hindley both claim the same forebearers, so that the date is a "family" one.

Mrs. Hindley is a descendant of Joseph and Ann Lee Hanks, through their son, William Hanks. William's sister, Lucy Hanks, was Lincoln's grandmother. Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks and Mrs. Hindley's great grandmother, Nancy Hanks Miller, were first cousins.

Mrs. Hindley treasures her great grandmother's stories of the Great Emancipator. She remembers Mrs. Miller telling her how she nursed Lincoln through a long siege of "prairie fever." She told of standing by his bed in the log cabin and brushing away flies. Another time she related how she carded wool and wove Lincoln a suit, dying it with walnut stain, while he split rails to fence her cabin.

SPLIT POLITICS

It was another relative, John Hanks, Mrs. Miller said, who helped Lincoln in his campaigns and tagged him as "The Rail Splitter." In appreciation, the President offered Hanks a post, but it was politely declined because the "Hankses were always staunch Democrats."

Lincoln's Republicanism was a disappointment to Mrs. Miller. She often said, Mrs. Hindley recalls, that "he was a nice man, if a mite headstrong. But I'd a liked him more if he had been a Democrat like all the Kentucky Hankses always was."

his signature "A. Lincoln" written on the flyleaf. The volume was given the Mt. Pleasant, Iowa library.

Naturally all of this Lincoln lore and more has been repeated by Mrs. Hindley to her children since they were youngsters, so that Charles, Jr., Barbara Ann, Wendell and Janet Sue no doubt will be telling the stories to their children on future Lincoln's days, continuing to give February 12 a very special family significance.



MRS. CHARLES HINDLEY

One of Mrs. Miller's reminiscences dealt with Lincoln's attempt at being a teacher. The students, realizing his inexperience, got out of hand, and locked him out of the schoolhouse. Undaunted "teacher" slid down the chimney. But he was seized, carried to a nearby creek and thrown in. In the end, the pupils got Charles Hanks to offer overtures of peace thinking that a relative's word would have more good influence with Lincoln.

BOOK SAVED

After Mrs. Miller's death, Mrs. Hindley remembers that some of her grandmothers' things were being burned. One of the more curious relatives saw a strange book at the edge of the flames and pulled it out. It turned out to be Lincoln's history book with

Man who split rails with Lincoln

By CARL LANDRUM

WITHOUT a doubt the story of "Old Abe" splitting rails is as well known as the man himself. Abraham Lincoln split rails with his cousin, John Hanks, and they also worked in cornfields and on flatboats together, sleeping and working in the snow and rain.

Richard J. Oglesby of Decatur, a major general of volunteers during the Civil War, later governor of the State of Illinois and then a United States senator, also knew of the rail-splitting. He knew that Hanks wanted to vote for his old friend when he ran for the Senate but couldn't because this meant voting for the local Republican candidate for the legislature. Oglesby had heard that Hanks and his friend had cleared a patch of timber, 15 to 20 acres, 12 miles west of Decatur in 1830, where they had built a cabin, cut the trees, hauled rails and put up a fence.

Oglesby asked Hanks if he had split rails with old Abe and Hanks replied that the last time he was down there, about 1850, there were plenty of those same rails left. Hanks and Oglesby went to the site the next day and found the rail fence, made of black walnut and honey locust rails, bringing two of them back, tied under the buggy.

When the time came for the Republican National Convention in Chicago Oglesby and several other Republicans arranged for Hanks to take the rails into the convention hall. A banner was attached to a board across the top with the message:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The Rail Candidate

For President in 1860

Two rails from a lot of 3,000 made in 1830 by John Hanks and Abe Lincoln, whose father was the first pioneer of Macon County.

At the convention in the "Wigwam" in Chicago, Oglesby announced that an old Democrat desired to make a contribution to the convention and John Hanks walked in with the rails. John and Abe greeted each other in a friendly fashion and the convention cheered and cheered, and called for a speech from Lincoln. He finally rose, and said, "Gentlemen, John and I did make some rails down there, and if these aren't the identical rails we made



BEST KNOWN PORTRAIT — A photograph of President Abraham Lincoln, made by Alexander Gardner on either Nov. 8 or 15, 1863, that has been widely published and is perhaps the best known full-face portrait of the Civil War President.

Hurrah for Hanks."

To this article I desire briefly to reply. If my choice for President, or how I shall vote as between the candidates for that office, is worth considering at all, I claim it as a simple right to be correctly represented. I am but a farmer, and regret to say not an educated one.

I have never been a candidate for any office, nor do I expect to be; whilst I can with all truthfulness say this, yet I have never been a negative man in politics. From my boyhood I have been a constant voter with the Democratic party in all essential elections; I have thought that party to be upright and straight forward in all the principles it has really adopted. So late in 1858 I voted for Mr. Douglas and against my old friend Lincoln.

For forty years I have looked upon the party with pride and hailed its success with pleasure; but as Mr. Douglas made a speech in Decatur in 1858, and in my hearing spoke so pleasantly and so honorably of the Whig party and of Mr. Clay, its leader, after having for fifteen years, in discussing general politics, when I used to love to listen to him so well, spoke so complainingly and so abusively of that party and of Mr. Clay, charging upon it and him many bad and mean

it was about time for him to begin to excuse and cease to abuse the Republicans, and made up my mind to let him go in time.

Now, as to entirely changing my politics I cannot say I have done this, but for the life of me I can see nothing in the Republican party of any honest Democrat can seriously oppose.

It is true, were they such a party as Mr. Douglas used to say they were, I could see objectionable features about it, but then is it wise to believe everything Mr. Douglas has said, when he tells us he sometimes changes, and where we have near us honest men known to be purely honest for more than thirty years, who deny all this and propose to tell us the true state of the case, and to give us the true principles of that party? I think not.

Besides this, when we have for years been opposed, in politics, to a man, who has again and again seen his party defeated, and has himself sometimes failed, and still seen that man true to his colors, re-arming and re-entering the field to try to uphold and successfully plant his colors upon the side of victory, when all the time we knew he had but to change once to win, and yet has never changed.

I think I may say never faltered, now are we to respect

times rail making, and too, when it was nearly impossible to get books, he was a constant reader; I was a listener; he settled all disputes of all the young men in the neighborhood, and his decisions were always abided by.

I never knew a man so honest under all circumstances, for his whole life. Thus association with Mr. Lincoln, I learned to love him, and when in 1858 he was a candidate for the first time within my reach, against my feelings, and I may say against my convictions, my old party ties induced me to vote for Mr. Douglas; my democratic friends declared that Mr. Lincoln was an abolitionist; I heard him make a speech in Decatur just before the election and I could see nothing bad in it; but I was told by the party he was wrong; I could not see how he should be, but they said so, and I was a democrat and went it.

My wife used to say to me that some day Abe would come out and be something; I thought so too, but I could not exactly see how a man in the lower walks of life, a day laborer and hopelessly poor would ever stand much chance to get up very high in the world; at last, one day at home, we heard that a Republican State Convention was to be held at Decatur, and they were going for Abe for President.

As soon as I found this out, I went into town and told a friend of Abe's that a great and honest merit was a last to be rewarded in my friend Mr. Lincoln, by the Republican party. I thought of hard and trying struggles of his early days, and recollecting the rails we had made together thirty years ago, made up my mind to present some of them to that Convention as a testimonial of the beginning of one of the greatest men of the age, believing they would speak more in praise than any orator could, and honor true labor more than the praise of men or the resolutions of Conventions.

On our way to get the rails, told this friend of old Abe that if Abe should be nominated for President I would vote for him; everybody knows what he has been and I rejoice that I live to give this testimony to his greatness and honesty, and I hope I shall live to vote for him for President of the United

(incomplete)

much like them." From that time on the rail was present in the campaign.

On July 11, 1860, the Quincy Daily Whig and Republican published the following editorial with the John Hanks letter on the next page:

"It is curious how the elevation of one man often times lifts another into favorable notice. Such is the case in regard to Mr. Lincoln and his good man Friday — Mr. John Hanks — who used to split rails with him. There is a plain homemade good sense in the letter Mr. Hanks has written, which shows that it is not a letter of a politician — but one which he has been compelled to write in self-defense on account of a mis-statement which the Democracy were making . . . The testimony he bears to the honesty of Old Abe, the account of the efforts he made to get an education — the simple and prophetic remark the wife of Mr. Hanks made that Abe would make something yet — the story of how he came to vote against Mr. Lincoln in '58, that he has been all his life a Democrat — and now finds Old Abe the nearest right, while Douglas, if he does not represent the negro and touch the convictions of many an honest voter, who will with Hanks, leave Douglas and go for Lincoln.

"In this complexion we may remark that one of the rails in our office was sent by this same John Hanks, to the Decatur Convention. Any of our friends who wish to see it, can do so any time before we nail our banner to it when we get well into the campaign. We shall be prouder of it than ever after reading the admirable letter of John Hanks, which is in our paper today, and which we beg you by all means to read."

JOHN HANKS' LETTER

Editor of the Decatur Chronicle:

Dear Sir: The item appeared in the Columbus Statesman a few days ago, which I take from the Coles County Ledger:

"Hanks Against Lincoln"

"We were informed a day or two ago by a delegate to the Baltimore Convention, who called at our office, that John Hanks, the man who assisted Abe Lincoln to make those rails about which the Republicans are making such a terrible hubbub, has announced himself opposed to the election of Lincoln. Hanks, who has never been a Democrat, is against

dangerous and full of the thought struck me that for the future I would never judge of a party of its leader by what an opponent might say, and this conclusion I mean to follow the balance of my life. How foolish it is to abuse a party because my friend may do so, and then praise the same party because that friend may change and do so, he may be designing—I would, in all probability be a dupe.

Ever since Mr. Douglas made that speech in 1855, he has been abusing the Republicans just like he used to abuse the old Whigs. I am tired of this kind of warfare; I think it is not right to do so, and as Mr. Douglas further said in that speech that he was in the habit of sometimes changing his politics. I did not know but that

be. In boyhood days we toiled together; many are the days we have lugged the heavy oar on the Ohio, the Illinois and the Mississippi rivers together; many are the long cold days we have journeyed over the wild prairies, and through the forest with gun and ax, and though it is not pleasant to refer back to it, well do I remember when we set out together in the cold winter to cut and maul rails on the Sangamon river, in Macon county, thirty years ago to enclose his father's little home, and from days to day kept at work until the whole was finished and the homestead fenced in; we often swapped work in this way, and yet during the many years we were connected together as laborers, sometimes flat boating, sometimes hog-driving, some-

this? Who ought to refuse to vote for as good and as great a man as he is. I know that in voting for him I vote with the Republican party; and will be considered as adopting its principles, as I may not do so: our own party is divided and we have no Solomon to tell who shall take the child.

Slavery has divided the Democratic party; nobody can blame Republicanism for the destruction that came upon us at Charleston; slavery has disunited us—it has united the Republican party; if there is any good about the question, they have it all, and we have the trouble.

If I understand Mr. Douglas now, he occupies a position on this question just as distasteful to the South as Mr. Lincoln does—with this clear difference; the South seems to understand Mr. Lincoln's position better than his, and to respect it a good deal more, and I am convinced that if Mr. Douglas does not reflect the nigger he does the mulatto, and one brings just as much in Mobile as the other, and stands as high at the market.

Many of my Democratic neighbors will say I have done wrong, but I know there are many who would do as I have done, were it not they do not feel willing to break away from party ties and to encounter "the talk" of old friends.

As long as I have "Old Abe" to lead me I know I shall never go very far from the right. Should he be elected President and find any trouble in steering his new boat, he has only to remember how we used to get out of hard places by rowing straight ahead and never by making short turns.

The tallest oaks in the forest have fallen by his giant arms; he still wields a tremendous maul; out of the largest timber he can make the smallest rails; I have seen him try a tough cut and fail once; the second trial he never failed to use it up!

Though not a very beautiful symbol of honesty, I think the rail is fitting one, and mean to present Abe with one of his own make, should he be elected, in the City of Washington, on the day of his inauguration to be kept in the White House during his administration.

John Hanks

Editor's Note: The John Hanks letter has been copied without any change by Mr. Landrum, with the exception of breaking it up into para-

William Banks Family + Elizabeth Hall
Complete story in

"Papers in Illinois History 1939."

Important Biographical letter to John
Banks about the Banks family

Charles William and William Miller
who mean one of your sisters,

See angle p 253

Lincoln never saw members of William Banks family
in Kentucky and says he was born in different county.
He saw John Banks and later in Indiana source
was seen closer with the more Miller.

March 3 1896

"Elizabeth Hall Hanks was the mother of
Nancy Hanks Lincoln the mother of Abraham
Lincoln."

Mrs. M. A. Beall. 63 years of age.

Mrs. Beall was a granddaughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Hall whose daughter married
William Hanks.

Feb 7 1896

My grandmother Hall was Elizabeth Hanks. and Elizabeth Hanks
was an aunt of Nancy Hanks the mother of President Lincoln.

John J. Hall.

Relative Describes Birth of Abraham Lincoln.

Dunham Wright, a relative of Abraham Lincoln, lives at Medical Springs, Oregon. He is eighty years old. While riding on horseback through eastern Oregon, I stopped overnight at his home, and he told me of his boyhood life of seventy-five years ago.

"I was born in Burlington, Vermont, March 13, 1842," said Mr. Wright. "My father, John D. Wright, was born in Virginia in 1807, and moved to Illinois just before he came of age.

"It was just about this time that the Hanks and Lincoln families also moved to Illinois. My father married Cella Hanks. She was the cousin of Abraham Lincoln.

"My mother died when I was six years old and I went to live with her father and mother, William and Elizabeth Hanks.

"My grandmother was a midwife. In those days the people on the frontier had to get along without doctors, and even if there had been doctors, a doctor was never called except when a person's life was despaired of.

"One time Thomas Lincoln came to my grandmother and told her that her services would be required before long. But the little chap put in appearance before he was expected. So, early in the morning of February 12, 1909, Thomas Lincoln pulled the latchstring of my grandmother's cabin door and said to my grandmother, 'Elizabeth, Nancy has a boy baby; you had better come over to our house.' Grandmother was getting breakfast, so she hurried up the breakfast, put it on the table, and walked two miles to the Lincoln cabin on the hillside.

"When grandmother got to Lincoln's cabin, she pulled the latchstring, entered the room and saw Mrs. Lincoln lying in bed. 'How are you, Nancy?' she asked. 'I am comfortable,' said Mrs. Lincoln, and she turned the bed-covers back and showed my grandmother the new boy. Grandmother put a kettle of water on over the fireplace, stirring up the fire, and a few minutes later was giving the baby its first bath.

"I have often heard my grandmother tell how she dressed the newly arrived baby. She put a little slip on him, and outside of this she put on one made of hard-spun cloth, hand-woven. It was home dyed and light yellow in color.

"My grandmother loaned Abraham the Bible from which he took his

first lessons. This Bible was given to me by my grandfather, and I still have it.

"Abe's mother did not live long. Her funeral sermon was preached by Parson Elkins."—Fred Lockley in McClure's Magazine for February.

Grandson
William Hawks

Sage Nears 100-Year Mark; Friends Plan to Pay Honor

LA GRANDE, March 12 (Special)—The man who knows from memory the entire history of Union county, a man whose mother was a cousin of Abra-

ham Lincoln, "Uncle" Dunham Wright of Medical Springs, will be 100 years old Friday. Hundreds of friends will congratulate him at a big informal party at the Sacajawea hotel sponsored by various organizations of pioneers.

John D. Wright, the father of Union county's "Grand Old Man," was credited with teaching young Abraham Lincoln the art of surveying, according to a "History of Union and Wallowa Counties," published soon after the turn of the century. That was in Illinois, where John D. Wright married Cecilia Hawks, a cousin of the 16th president of the United States.

Gold Fever Strikes

Dunham was born in Iowa, March 13, 1842. His education was received partly in the old log schoolhouse, but principally at the knee of his erudite father and in personal research.

When he was 18, the gold fever seized him and he started for the newly-discovered mines north of Boise. Two years later, in 1862, he founded the home which has lasted for 80 years in the Grande Ronde valley.

100 Candles Planned

In succession Dunham Wright acquired a farm and a hotel at Cove and a hotel at Medical Springs which he still operates. On Independence day in 1867 he married Miss Mishy Duncan and they had one daughter.

A hundred candles atop a huge birthday cake will be lighted as a feature of the birthday party Friday night, and Congressman Walter M. Pierce will broadcast from Washington, D. C., a congratulatory message which also will be placed in the Congressional Record.



—Stearns photo.
DUNHAM WRIGHT
Pioneer reaches 100.

Dunham Wright, at 100, Is Lincoln's Closest Kin

Centenarian Traces Kinship Through Nancy Hanks

BY CHESTER A. FEE
Pendleton Free Lance Writer

ABRAHAM LINCOLN was still a little known lawyer in Illinois when Dunham Wright was born in Decatur, Ill., on March 13, 1842.

The spirit of the great martyred president still burns and is a part of America, but there are few Americans who can claim to be his descendants.

None can claim direct lineal descent from Lincoln, for all of the Lincoln children died without issue.

But Dunham Wright, who celebrated his 100th birthday two weeks ago at his resort at Medical Springs, Or., claims with apparent justification to be the closest living relative of the great emancipator.

His relationship is traced through the marriage of his father to a niece of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's mother.

Unquestionably Dunham Wright has a great interest in Abraham Lincoln, but he admits he never saw his illustrious relative. In his spacious home, the spot where he settled after driving three yoke of oxen from Denver to Oregon, are many items of Lincoliana and pictures of the Hanks family.

John D. Wright was a surveyor. He taught his son to survey, and Dunham worked with his father as a deputy for a short time when his father was "sectioning" the counties of Indiana and Iowa. Finally they moved 200 miles west of Burlington, Iowa, to the boat landing on Hawkeye creek. "That was where we got our education," says Dunham. "Father had a small library with him."

FATHER:

Taught Young Dunham Art of Surveying

In 1860 Dunham, then 18, crossed a portion of the plains to Denver, at the time a portion of an undefined territory known as western Kansas. He found himself in violent disagreement with Fremont's reported conclusions concerning the western country, which Wright quotes oratorically: "All that country



Dunham Wright, who celebrated his 100th birthday March 13, at Medical Springs, Or., claims he's the closest living relative of Abraham Lincoln. Wright drove oxen to Oregon in early years.

west of the Rockies is only a fit place for the breeding of jack-rabbits and coyotes."

Wright was but 18 when he arrived in Colorado, when, as he says, "Douglas was preaching squatter's sovereignty, but Abe was elected."

"I knew some of the best and some of the worst men in Colorado," he relates. While there he nursed two men through a serious illness. They were Henry M. Teller, who later became United States senator, and Harley B. Morse, one time attorney general for Colorado. Dunham relates this story of his venture in nursing in humorous vein: The men apparently liked his nursing but could not tolerate his cooking. One of them said, "We must eat to recuperate, but I can't stand this black tea made in an old coffee pot."

Eighteen hundred sixty-two found Dunham Wright traveling west again. This time, with three yoke of oxen, he covered a portion of the Old Oregon Trail, which he entered at the

spot where the massacres of 1852 had occurred, 60 miles southeast of Boise, Idaho. The 20-year-old Wright was deeply impressed as he viewed the wagon tires lying in a circle in the rye grass and stumbled over both large and small human skulls until he had reconstructed an unfading image of butchery and suffering.

That winter gold was discovered at Florence, Idaho. It attracted Wright to the Salmon river, whither he went in a caravan of 300 wagons although the road which they traveled down the north side of the Salmon had to be cut through forests or built along rocky hillsides most of the way. There he made enough money at from \$4 to \$16 a day "rocking" from a dry gulch, together with the \$100 and the riding horse he was given for helping to build the road, to start operating a stage from Umatilla Landing to Boise basin during the fabulous days in that section.

Thereafter Dunham Wright spent his time with a stage coach, or as a packer or freight-



The conclusion of General John Fremont, early explorer, that the sage country was worthless used to anger Dunham Wright.

er, especially after the Boise basin ran short of flour and Wright was given a contract at 30 cents a pound to bring that commodity in from Umatilla Landing. Ponies could be purchased for \$10 apiece, so Wright had a string of them he used on the Umatilla Landing-Boise basin trail. On this run Wright became acquainted with "Whispering Smith," whom all stage coach drivers feared to

meet on the road because his five-wagon freight train always occupied the rutted center to the exclusion of all other vehicles, no matter their mission or the sometimes insuperable difficulties of a turnout. Smith had acquired this sobriquet "Whispering" because he could be heard yelling to his lead horse "Dave" for a mile and a half.

Wright once had occasion to ride in quest of some of his pack-string which had ranged for six or eight months. In all he spent 22 days riding over Umatilla county, which then comprised all of Union and Moro counties as well. Wright finally found his horses, rolling with fat, on the John Day. As he rode back, he mused on the country, and concluded, almost in the Fremont vein, he would not give 30 cents for all of it. Had he felt otherwise he might have been several times a millionaire, because his comments applied equally to sagebrush and to bunchgrass, where now lie the wheat fields which produce 7,000,000 bushels annually near Pendleton.

PIONEER:

Settled Down But Kept Rifle

Thereafter Dunham Wright settled down to a more normal life, which means that he carried a Winchester—two in fact—on his first trip in 1878 to the legislature, where he was destined to serve six years in the lower house and four in the senate. His trip in itself was interesting because he, with Mrs. Wright, at La Grande, with nine other passengers all equipped with guns, clambered aboard a stage coach already riddled with bullet holes. The Bannocks were on the warpath. And the road they traveled proved to be on that particular warpath, for at the top of Crawford's hill the coach stopped at the scene of an Indian ambush which was not yet a week old from which only one man had escaped unharmed after the Indians had wounded another and had killed George Coggin, who owned the horses of the outfit. Coggin, as did most men in those days, wore a beard, but the Indians had burned his whiskers off and had severed one finger from his body because he wore a fine diamond ring which they wanted. The people of Pendleton had made a hurried trip the day before to the spot to inter Coggin in a shallow grave, but this party removed his body, brought it to Pendleton, and saw it packed in ice for shipment to Portland.

The Wrights continued their journey on a construction train to Umatilla Landing, where they

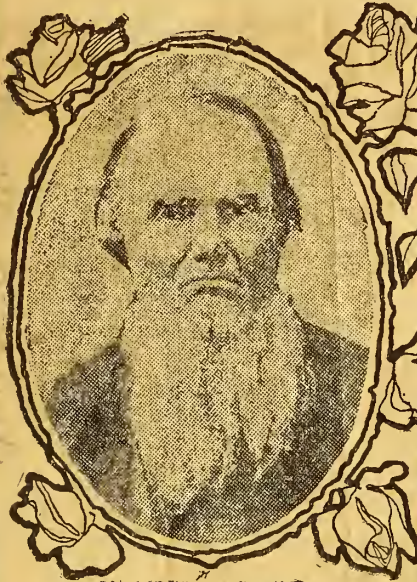
took a steamer down river.

Since Wright's return from the state senate, he has resided at Medical Springs, where he has developed a resort of wide appeal.

But life is not quite the same; the appeal of the youngling west has departed. As Wright says, "I used to wake in the morning to howling animals; there are only steam whistles now."

Lincoln's Bedfellow An Oregonian

JOHNNIE HANKS OF OREGON



JOHN HANKS

(By Paul De Laney.)

J. L. HANKS, bedfellow in his boyhood days of Abraham Lincoln, and second cousin to the late president, is a resident of Klamath county, Oregon.

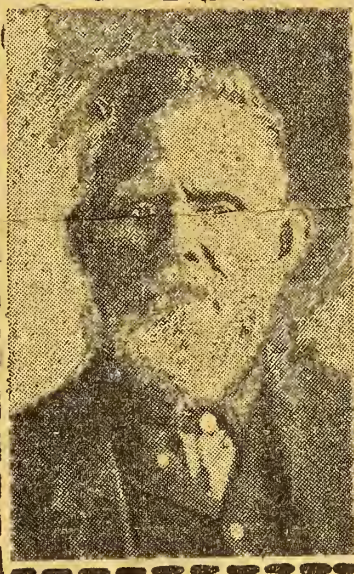
Mr. Hanks came to Oregon in the early '50s and has made but one trip to the old home since. Mr. Hanks refused an appointment from Mr. Lincoln because the two men differed in politics, Mr. Hanks being a staunch Democrat. He also tells some unwritten history of Mr. Lincoln's life and quotes Mr. Lincoln's view of Oregon, which was not very favorable.

"It is too far away," said Lincoln, when Mr. Hanks proposed to go to Oregon. "Our country is new enough and the opportunities are abundant at home. There is no use to go to that out-of-the-world place."

Mr. Hanks had become impressed with the greatness of Oregon's future from reading letters from a friend who had immigrated to this country and called upon Lincoln when he got ready to start to bid him good-bye. Lincoln was then practicing law in Decatur, Illinois. Lincoln advised him not to come. He recited the fact that the country was almost wholly unknown; that the trip was hazardous, that it properly belonged to a later generation to develop Oregon.

Hanks, however, refused the advice and came to Oregon. He returned to the east while Lincoln was president and opened his eyes to the possibilities of Oregon. The president asked him if he would like to be a United States marshal or a postmaster, or hold some federal appointment in Oregon. Mr. Hanks informed him that he was still a Democrat and did not care for an appointment. He was at that time sheriff of Lake county, which at that time included Klamath and all of the southeastern portion of the state. He was elected on the Democratic ticket and would not resign the office to accept Republican appointment.

The Hanks family in Klamath county as large. J. L. Hanks has several sons, all married and all with families. They are all substantial farmers and the foremost Democrats of the county. They take an active part in every campaign. J. L. Hanks was 76 years old last month and is as strong and healthy as a man of 40. He was about 12 years old when Abraham Lincoln came to his father's



J. L. HANKS OF OREGON.

house to live and remembers him well. He and Lincoln shared the same bed for a long time.

His father, John Hanks, assisted Lincoln in building the young lawyer's first cabin in Illinois and they engaged in steamboating together. They made 12 trips down the Mississippi river to New Orleans and other points.

"When 'Uncle Abe,' as we all called him first, came to our house he was a slender, beardless young man," said Mr. Hanks. "He and my father were first cousins and my father being the older took 'Uncle Abe' in as one of the family and kind of looked after him. Public lands were plentiful then and Uncle Abe took up a homestead. My father assisted him in building a cabin on the place. Meantime he worked on our farm barring the time that he and my father were away on their boating trips.

"It was while he was at our house that he began reading law. He borrowed law books from a lawyer at the nearest town and sat up at night long after the rest of the family had gone to bed and studied. He and I slept together, but I rarely knew when he came to bed. I was young and slept soundly.

"Of course at that time we did not think him out of the ordinary. He was a hard worker, good-natured and was treated like the other members of the family and did chores about the place

night and mornings just as if he were one of the family. I can remember now how painstaking and how serious he was about everything he undertook. It had to be just right before he would consider it done.

"We were not so well off in those days. My father was a pioneer and none of the early settlers had many conveniences. I remember that Uncle Abe had to read by a poor light often. In fact, I remember that many times we all had to get along with no other light than that made by blazing pine knots.

"After Uncle Abe was admitted to the bar I remember that we were all proud of him because his fame soon began to spread. I remember that in those days they had large circuits in the sparsely settled country and that they would never hold court until Uncle Abe arrived. He was soon interested on one side of about every case that came up, and I remember that they always delayed opening court until his arrival. Uncle Abe was seven years younger than my father, but I remember that my father was always looked up to for advice and more as a father than a cousin of the president.

"Uncle Abe got his politics from his father's side of the house. The Hankses were all Democrats so far as we have any trace of them, and all of their descendants are Democrats. My father was loyal to the president all the way through, however. He enlisted in the civil war at the age of 59. The Hanks family was of Virginia origin, and the family history has it that an early ancestor, Benjamin Hanks, fought under George Washington."

J. L. Hanks settled in Douglas county, Oregon, in 1858. He was married to Mary Jane Pardue, at Canyonville, in 1861. He returned to his old home twice, having made the tedious trip by private conveyance across the plains each time.

A comparison of the photographs herewith presented shows a striking resemblance of the Hankses to one another for four generations. J. L. Hanks resembles his father John most nearly. Each of his two sons whose portraits are shown, John and Jesse, look like him, and little John, now 6 years old, the son of John Hanks of Klamath Falls and the grandson of J. L. Hanks, greatly resembles the original John Hanks.

SOMETIMES election or appointment to an office spoils a man. He walks down the street with his head in the air. But a real man will be grateful for his success. He will know his friends in the same old way. He will speak to them and chat with them. He will make them feel happy and pleased at his progress. He will be genuinely the same courteous, sincere person that he was before.

Abraham Lincoln was this latter sort of man. He was humble, born poor, had worn shabby clothing, had struggled hard to lift himself up, had been crushed to earth and risen again. He greeted his old friends joyously, and they went away with more power to be better men and women. Lincoln liked to help people.

At a public reception in 1863 with the foreign legations present in the White House there were two guests who could not be at ease in the midst of such splendor. An old farmer stood just inside the door with his wife clinging to his arm. The crowd did not notice them, but the President saw them. He had been using his great height to peer over the heads of the people, perhaps hoping for just such a surprise. Hastily he excused himself to a titled Englishman; then he hurried toward the entrance.

"Why, John," came the earnest greeting, "I'm glad to see you. I have not talked to you since you and I split rails for old Mrs. Brown in Sangamon township back in 1837. How are you?"

The two men shook hands in a warm reunion after twenty-six years. The President greeted the woman heartily too. Then the comrade of Lincoln's long-gone railsplitting days turned to his wife. "Mother," he exclaimed in a thrilled voice, "he's just the same old Abe."

This was John Hanks, an uncle, or possibly a great uncle, of Lincoln. He had been a pal to the boy who had moved into the White House as a man. He and John and another fellow had even built a flatboat together.

"We had three boys," he told Lincoln, "and they all enlisted in the same company. John was killed, Sam was captured and died in prison, and Henry is in a hospital here. We had a little money, an' I said: 'Mother, we'll go to Washington an' see him, an' while we are there we'll go up and see the President.' And so we have come along up here to see you, Abe."

The eyes of the President dimmed as he expressed the hope that "this miserable war will soon be over." He said he wanted to have a long talk with them after the

reception; so he hustled them into a private room to wait an hour or two till he could manage to get away for an extended chat with John and his wife.

At another time another Mr. Hanks came to Washington to see the Chief Executive. This was Dennis who must have been a cousin of Lincoln's mother. He had chummed with him back in the early

days, but since they had both grown up they had got out of touch with each other. Dennis had come to Washington to get a pardon for certain friends then in jail because they had made some sort of an effort to aid the South.

"Is Abe in?" he asked the man guarding the door of the White House.

"Do you mean Mr. Lincoln?"

"Yes," answered Dennis Hanks. "Is he in there?" The husky cousin then brushed the guard aside, entered, and strode about till he found Lincoln.

"Hello, Abe!" he said, their right hands gripped together, "how are you?"

Abraham was pleasantly surprised. He grabbed Dennis Hanks as if he meant to have a playful scuffle. Then they talked of their boyhood and the days gone by. At last he wanted to know what had caused him to make the long trip to Washington. And Dennis told him about his friends in trouble.

"I will grant the pardon, Dennis," the President agreed for old times' sake. "I will send for Mr. Stanton. It is his business, but I think he will not like it."

Lincoln well understood his Secretary of War would not approve such action; and, sure enough, Stanton paced up and down the room as he hurled his objections. The men were traitors. They deserved punishment. The rebellion could never be put down if everybody were pardoned. After Stanton had calmed down a bit Lincoln quietly requested him to see that the papers were all ready on the following day.

"Abe," suggested Dennis Hanks as the Secretary departed, "if I were as big and ugly as you are, I would take him over my knees and spank him."

The President laughed. No, Stanton was an able and valuable man to the nation. It needed him. Lincoln was more than willing to bear the Secretary's anger in return for his excellent service.

A modest man Abraham Lincoln was. He did not like to be addressed as "President," but preferred the plain forms of "Lincoln" or "Mr. Lincoln." He designated his office simply as "the place." His old friends from the West of that time, Illi-



"Abraham Lincoln," from a wood engraving by Timothy Cole. Courtesy of Doll & Richards.

John Hanks

paternal
cousin

nols, Indiana and Kentucky, could be sure of a warm welcome. No, the White House did not spoil "Honest Abe."

When an old acquaintance and his wife visited in Washington they were invited to take a ride in the presidential carriage. Now there is a certain etiquette for such rides. The men must wear white gloves. As it happened, neither Lincoln nor his friend desired to comply with this custom; yet each feared that the other would be so attired, and consequently each prepared to undergo the inconvenience.

Of course the ladies urged the propriety of gloves. Abraham took a pair in his pocket, and he meant to leave the gloves there if his guest appeared without any. The Lincolns drove to the hotel. When their guests entered the carriage Lincoln noticed that his friend was handsomely gloved. At the same time the friend saw that the President wore no gloves. The one tried to take his gloves off while the other hurried to put his on.

^ ^ ^

"No! No! No!" the friend protested as he took in the amusing situation. "It is none of my doings. Put up your gloves, Mr. Lincoln."

In 1860 after Lincoln was nominated for the Presidency a large room in the Illinois State House was set apart for him to meet the public. Among the callers was an elderly woman who knew Lincoln, but whom at first he could not remember. She mentioned he had frequently dined at her house on his way to the court sessions. Then he recalled that he had always fared well there.

"One day you came along after we had finished our dinner," she said, "and we had eaten up everything I had fixed. I could give you nothing but a bowl of bread and milk. When you had eaten it you got up and told me it was good enough for the President of the United States." There was a prophetic flavor in this incident.

CARL SCHURZ LOWDEN

Joseph H. B. ...
visited June 1, 1927

Leonard Hall son of Franklin Hall son of John
Newberry the Boy
Monks bought place of Boring

John sold to Mahoney - Transfers Franklin Hall
Bittner negro own part. " Sam's farm

N 200 acres in present project

On North Hope & Howard's turn pike

3 miles from Creek Body when cross Forker Creek
about 2 miles up stream

Trace Creek runs through farm

The Hall ranch 35 yrs ago cherry lot old logs
down then down hauled away for horse roads

Near right of old apple tree
some crockery on right of cabin

Harry + Alex High own land on other side of farm
I

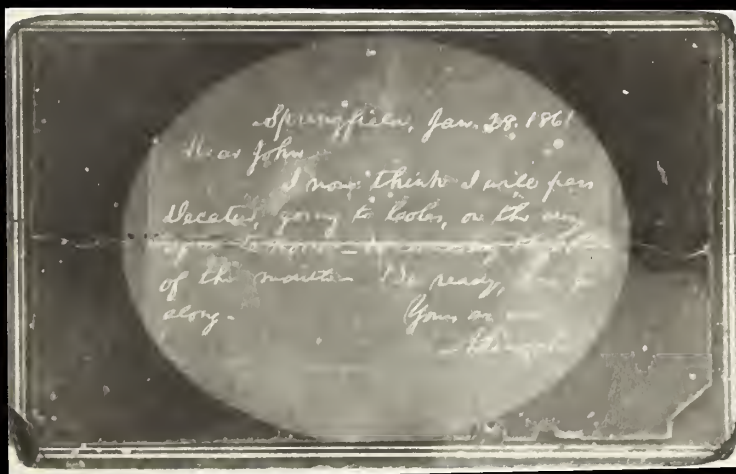
Leonard Hall. son of John Boring, owned

Autograph Letter of President Lincoln.

The original letter, of which this is a photographic copy, was written by Abraham Lincoln after his election as President. It was addressed to JOHN HANKS, of Ma-
coun County, Illinois, who was intimately associated with
Chief Magistrate during the years of his early
hood, and shared with him the perils of flat-boating,
and the hardships of pioneer life in the wilderness.

to Act of Congress.—Francis Capen, Photographer,
15 Washington Street, Boston.





Springfield, Jan. 28, 1861

Dear John

I may think I will pass
Decatur, going to look, on the way
of the matter. I'm ready, but
along.

Yours

Wm. L. G. Wright

